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ABUSE OF EXECUTIVE SESSIONS

TOMORROW the City Council is scheduled to take up the rent control issue again. If the pattern of the past holds, the members will gather in executive session an hour before the public session and continue their efforts to reach a compromise. If their efforts are successful, they will file into the Council chamber and vote their compromise agreement to effect.

though they are honor bound not to report the positions or opinions of individual Councilmen—there is some protection against shrewd inquiry. Nevertheless, it is an instrument which should be used sparingly lest it be abused. It is our impression that the present Council has come to rely far too heavily on the executive session, in the interest of harmony. The people do not like for their business to be conducted behind closed doors. They want to be able to see up the individual members of the Council to find out what opinions they have to determine their independence and courage and integrity.

LESSONS FROM DOWN UNDER

THE Conservatives in Great Britain (and their lower case counterparts in this country, for that matter) are quite understandably jubilant over the outcome of the Australian election, which swept the Labor Party from power. The rejection of Australian Socialism, following by eleven days the repudiation of New Zealand's socialist regime, has many Conservatives hoping for a similar turn of events in Great Britain next year.

The people of the two dominions apparently wanted to rid themselves of a planned economy, for the results in both elections were decisive. Nevertheless, the optimistic optimism in Great Britain must be tempered by the realities of the situation, not the least of which is that purely local issues in New Zealand and Australia were of some importance in the victory. Furthermore, it remains to be seen just how much of the socialist legislation will be taken off the books. As one National Party leader in New Zealand said, "Have you ever tried to unassemble an egg?"

ATOMIC ENERGY PACT

AN INTERVIEW with David E. Lilienthal in a recent issue of U. S. News & World Report contained this exchange: Q. How can you describe the extent of the atomic energy pact which the British and the Canadians were our wartime partners, and they have very extensive knowledge. The World Bank, the British and the Canadians were our wartime partners, and they have very extensive knowledge. The World Bank, the British and the Canadians were our wartime partners, and they have very extensive knowledge.

There have been many encouraging signs that the U. S. is slowly emerging from what has amounted to a mania for secrecy about atomic energy. We are beginning to realize that our national security depends on our supremacy in the field.

CHARLES A. WEBB

"OUR MOUNTAINS are our strength," said Charles Aurelius Webb some years ago. The chairman of the board of the Asheville Citizens-Times Company and uniting booster of Western North Carolina referred to that time to the rugged, blue-hazed ridge that ran like a spine down North Carolina's Western edge.

Dedicated to the upbuilding of this once backward area, he spent his life in public works—as a schoolteacher, as a lawyer, as a member of the North Carolina Legislature, as a U. S. Marshal, as publisher of Asheville newspapers.

PROFIT FROM A WRONG

THE proposal of State Treasurer Hodges that the State sell the \$25,000,000 of its own bonds, now held in the State sinking funds, and reinvest the money in United States Government bonds at a profit of \$2,000,000 shows the practical effects of the unjustifiable exemption of State bonds from taxation.

This whole business of tax exemption is an inexcusable wrong. The first effect is to drive capital from productive enterprise into wholly or partially exempt bonds.

U. S. Military Lukewarm

WALLACE after various conferences, reported back to the FDR that atomic energy was definitely worth the expense of developing it.

The lukewarm reaction of the military leaders was not enthusiastic. They faced tremendous shortages of material and did not want anything to detract from the immediate winning of the war.



HERB LOCK

People's Platform 'Ally' Or 'Co-Belligerent'?

CHARLOTTE Editors: The News: YOUR interesting editorial on the Fulton Lewis atom story was readable and doubtless expressed the views of a good many people.

who says that the all encompassing mind of the Bard of Stratford was any more apt than pro simple hand struck sufficiently by his literary net.

Defense Of The Bard

CHARPEL HILL Editors: The News: "Nature hath turn'd strange fellows in her time: that every one doth plume himself in time of peace, and swells with the sense of the day."

Quote, Unquote

ON SPENDING A LIFE In a recent address before the U. S. Senate, President of Duke University, made this arresting statement: "Education is based on the philosophy that all of life is a sacred trust. Life cannot be hoarded. It must be spent. The truly educated man has mastered the art of spending his life."

Drew Pearson's Merry-Go-Round

HENRY WALLACE has come in for some vigorous criticism from this column, but it is only fair to give the real facts regarding Wallace's cooperation with Gen. Leslie Groves stated last week that he withheld most atomic secrets from Wallace, then Vice-President.

Wallace Was A Godfather Of A Bomb

went along with the idea, but Gen. B. S. Eberly, in charge of supplies, was skeptical. Perhaps it was because some of the brass hats took exception to the idea that a man who had been Vice-President that General Groves was picked to command the Manhattan Project.

Wallace Secrets

UNQUESTIONED Groves did withhold secrets from Vice-President Wallace. But unquestionably also Wallace knew about the atomic bomb because of his position as Vice-President.

Race Understanding

WHILE KU KLUX KLAN cross-burnings and race troubles of good will be making headlines, the less spectacular work of the other day at Orange, Texas (population 2,000) both white and negro were being carried on.

The Money Question

WASHINGTON The Government, which starts the national census every ten years since 1790, starts the 1950 census April 1. About 150 million people will be counted in the 1950 census. It will start knocking on all-American doors, asking a number of questions about every fifth person they ask.

Q. How far has the census a year ago? A. It would not reach there, but I did talk to a number of Census Bureau officials. This is the explanation. It is called THE AUTHORITY.

Q. Where does the Census Bureau get the right to ask the questions? A. In 1909 the Executive Order, under President Herbert Hoover, passed a census law. While it did not specifically say "census takers should ask such a question about income," it did.

Q. Why was the question about income first asked in 1940? A. It was a question about income. It was a question about income. It was a question about income.

Henry C. McFadyen Technical Training

ALBEMARLE NOT long ago I got a letter from a former student, a young man who is now in the Pacific. He will be out of the service pretty soon, and he is asking me something about North Carolina State College.

READ AND REMEMBER

By W. L. Gordon Middleton, doctor, and other Christmas decorations are said to be imitations of the ancient Roman custom of hanging evergreen boughs in the houses as a refuge for Syrian spirits from the winter cold.