Section 153-8 of the General Statutes North Carolina, relating to meetings of the Board of County Commissioners, says, among other things: Every meeting shall be open to all persons.

The meaning of that sentence is clear, indisputable, unquestionable, obvious, apparent, transparent, lucid, unclouded. It says what it means and it means what it says.

what it means and it means what it says. Every meeting shall be open to all persons. We do not imply that the Commissioners lacked the courage to discuss and vote on the project in the presence of spectators. And we seriously doubt that they even knew they were violating the law. But violating it they were-flatly and inexcusably.

And this shall be a sign unto them, lest at some future date some alert citizen ask and be granted the right to set aside an important action of the Commissioners on the grounds that it was taken at an illegal meet-

our two countries and western Europe must have but one common foreign policy if the free world is to be best defended. But along with this realization should be, on the part of American negotiators, recognition of the fact that they're dealing with the grand champlion of personal diplomacy. They had best keep their guard up.

The nine other NATO countries were scored for not making as great a rearrament effort as they were capable of making without wrecking their civilian economies. Britain came off light—her low coal production was the main criticism, while Belgium, a relatively wealthy country, was called the worst laggard.

On top of all this Senator Lodge, who has considerable stature in the fields of foreign policy and defense, said we've delivered only about one-fifth of the material promised to NATO countries. "The main reason for this poor showing." he fold the New York Herdl Tribune, "is that production has slipped badly in the United States".

Well, you pays your money and you takes

badly in the United States".

Well, you pays your money and you takes
your choice. The men who really should know
don't agree on how well we're doing. In such
a situation, is it any wonder that the plain
American is slightly bewildered?

As the discussion came to a close. Moscov released a Soviet report written by Polithur member Beria. He found the U. S. economy

memoer Beria. He found the U. S. economy "constantly menaced with upheavals (with) millions of unemployed. . . Incredible infla-tion of the war industries and of branches that serve these industries at the expense of production for civilian consumption is bound to lead to economic collapse in the near future."

This Beria report should be quietly filed away by the State Department until next year's budget debate. Then it should be pre-sented as "evidence" that the U. S. cannot stand the burden of continued large con-tributions to the U. N.

the U.S. contribution

### WHY ALL THE SECRECY?

ON DEC. 3, the Mecklenburg County Commissioners heard proponents and opponents of the runway extension project at a regular meeting. After everyone had said his place, the Commissioners sent spectators and merapapermen from the room and went into executive session. With no public observers

piece, the Commissioners sent spectators and mesupapermen from the room and went into enactive session. With no public observers or hand, the Commissioners then voted 4-1 for reject a petition to reroute a section of Dise Rood to permit the extension. On Dec. 17, proponents and opponents was over, the Commission again saided the spectators to leave. This time they permitted megapaper reporters to stay. After matching for a well-known soft drink, a quaint little Courthouse game of chance that seems to have weathered the Kefauver storm, the Commissioners voted again, this time 3-2, against rescinding their previous action. The point we want to make today is that the Commissioners clearly violated State law in both instances, with the initial violation the most flagrant.

DEALING WITH A CHAMP Britain participate in these two groups, Mr. Churchill may have decided to make his country's participation in them a condition of certain the second of the

WHEN British Prime Minister Churchill comes to Washington next month he'll bring along a neat package of bargaining points which have been accumulating since the shrewd old statesman was returned to pewer in October.

Britain has amnounced that it will meet both the interest and installments due Dec. 45 on its multi-billion dollar loans from this country. Britain had the right to waive the interest payments, but chose to dip into its priscious gold and dollar reserves to meet the bill.

Thus Churchill, who will probably ask for financial aid or allocation of needed material, such as steel, can point to his country's meeting of an obligation despite severe economic

distress.

Mr. Churchill has also surprised many per-sons by his reluctance to associate his coun-ing more closely with Western continental Europe in the Schuman Plan for a coal-steel pool and in the European Army However, knowing the desire of the U. S. to have

# HOW ARE WE DOING?

THE guns and butter controversy has now Thesen widened. A couple of weeks ago Texan Sensitor Johnston's Preparedness sub-committee declared that U. S. production of war material is way behind schedule. Then Sensitor Maybank's House-Sensito Defense Production Committee reported we are doing fine—there are plenty of guns, and enough butter too.

This line-that all goes well with our de This line—that all goes well with our de-fense effort—ha been off-repeated by De-fense Mobilizer Wilson. Last week it was cor-potential of the mobilizer wilson in surveying committee which is surveying NATO rearmed to the control of the con-ician in the control of report, the only country to do succept elband which has no army), and Portugal he week stater stepchild of NATO whose chief claim to membership was her geographic location.

### DIVERGENT DIALECTICS

THE U. N. Assembly discussions droned on In Paris, and they followed a familiar pattern. As expected, agreement was not reached on the disarmanent question, to a reached on the disarmanent question, to a consideration of the disarmanent particular to the disarmanent particula

tributions to the U. N. Russia, in particular, finds herself in a speculiar position during this debate. Ordinarily she extols the progress and wealth of the USSR, and deprecates the decadent condition of the U. S. But last week she noted the increase in national income in the U. S. And, she said, Russia needs so much money for "reconstruction". So wouldn't the U. S. please like to pay 385.2 per cent of the costs of the U. N. A. U. N. committee, however, scaled down

From The Wall Street Journal

NOW you take Mr. Joseph DiMaggio. Peo-New you take Mr. Joseph DiMaggio. Peo-ple who keep up with such things tell us that had he desired he could have con-tinued next year his professional connection with the New York Yankees for \$100,000. Instead, he decided to change his profession to that of a telecaster for a reported \$50,000. This probably sets a record for a voluntary selary cut.

Safary cut.

It's true Mr. DiMaggio will probably find his new work less arduous. He will only be working half a season since he will broadcast ently home games, and instead of running in the sun he can just six talking in the shade. Still, it does seem like quite a salary cut for a fellow just to ask for. \$50,000 is still \$50,000. Or is it! with this nice new tax bill that's coming along with the happy new year, Mr. DiMaggio's slice for the government on \$100,000 would be about \$50,000—give or take a bit, and making no allowance for higher rates due to other income he might have, On his \$50,000 he will have to pay the government only about \$27,000, plus or minus a few old book.

On that basis, if Mr. DiMaggio undertook

NICE BARGAIN IN EASY CHAIRS his arduous labors for \$100,000 he would have left for take-home pay around \$32,000. On his new \$50,000 job he will take home about \$23,000.

So what happened to that \$50,000 salary cut? It's shrunk to a mere \$9,000, and that sure ain't Sanforized. The official price tag on Mr. DiMaggie's new easy chair may read \$50,000, but he actually bought it for \$8,000. That's what we call a real buyer's discount.

It's a curious business when a man can work for a take-home pay of \$32,000, submit to a \$50,000 salary cut and still take home \$32,000. It slooks like Mr. DiMaggio is even smarter than we thought. The only fellow who's outsmarted himself is Uncle Sam. The deal cost him \$45,000.

Have you ever thought about what strange things bring pleasure to people? I hadn't until the other day when I heard a woman say. "I don't know when I have enjoyed anything as much as I did my run-in with the garbage mum this morning."—Greenville (Aiss.) Delta Democrat/innes.



Mr. Truman And The Press

# Presidential Petulance

An Editorial From The St. Louis Post-Dispatch

DRESIDENT Truman's latest press conference made it about as clear as clear can be that made it about as clear as clear can be that loomed big in his mind as he burries@back from Key West to Washington, Certainly, the Internal Revenue and Justice Department exposes—and what Mr. Truman is going to do about them—were chief with the correspondents.

Unhappily, the President did not meet the issue of corruption in government with full candor and frankness. He did not announce immediate and specific measures of dealing with the moral crisis. Instead, he said that his Administration would "con-

Instead, he said that his Administration would "con-tinue" action against unworthy governmental em-ployees, and suggested that he may create a special house-cleaning agency in the days ahead.

At the same time, the President said that he would not ask for the resignation of Atternative General McGrath or Democratic National Committee Chaltrman McKinney. He said this despite the ques-tions which have been raised about the activities of both men. Surely, it would have been well susupend judgment until those questions are fully answered.

WORST of all, Mr. Tsuran vented his obvious Wolfer and the Post-Dispatch. This was beneath the dispatch of the Post-Dispatch. This was beneath the disperse of the Post-Dispatch of the Post-Dispatch of the Post-Dispatch of the Post-Dispatch of the Post-Dispatch. But if he did know the post-Dispatch of the Post-Dispatch. But if he did know the post-Dispatch of the Post-Dispatch had also said good things about Demo-

Petulance
cratic Mayors—and Governors and Presidents for that matter.
As Raymond P. Brandt, our chief Washington correspondent, reminded Mr. Truman, this newspaper would have investigated the office of a Raymond that the state of the problem is a collector just as promptly under distillation of the part of the Post-Dispatch in exposing the Table part of the Post-Dispatch in exposing the Table part of the Post-Dispatch in exposing the Table part of the Post-Dispatch in Exposite the almost single-handed work of the Post-Dispatch if bringing to light the record of the Raymond that the problem of the Post-Dispatch if bringing to light the record of the Raymond that the Post-Dispatch is the Post-Dispatch in the Post-Dispatch in the Post-Dispatch of the Post-Dispatch in the Post-Dispatch of the Post-Dispatch does not look for partians identification tags where corruption is concerned.

for partians identification tags where corruption is concerned.

YET WE must conclude that Mr. Truman has been more than a little partians in his approach to the current scandals. It has been suggested that some of his advisors conneeled him to be a very bit storm, they guested. Mr. Trumon however, came to the conclusion that it called for some action. He ordered the discharge of Mr. Caudle, and he claims a hand in the removal of Mr. Finnegan. And he may yet take further and broader steps. But all this comes slowly and unbroader steps. But all this comes slowly and unbroader steps. But all this comes alovely and the "Wrongdoers have no house with me," said the President, "no matter who they are or how big they are."

Well enough said, But the statement would have been more impressive had it come earlier and had been more impressive had it come earlier and had

they are."
Well enough said. But the statement would have been more impressive had it come earlier and had to been amounted by an annumement of specific them are compared by an annumement of specific doers and bringing them to justice.
That would have been much more in keeping with the high office of the Presidency than an exhibition of personal petuliance.

# CAUDLESE

### (An Editorial from The Greensboro Daily News)

TWIE Monroe Journal is miffed if the most and about Vankee criticism of Lamra Caudie's Southern acreal.

It says Life Magazine made a great 'tabow' of find in quote the month of the month

# One Senator Of Wiley Type Spoils The Labor Of Others

By MARQUIS CHILDS

TRAVELERS returning from a present the propose are flocking serous was the compression and the propose are flocking serous and now most of the haspecture at a more instances with the same prejudices they took over with them, the prejudices meanly folded and the prejudices when the prejudices well with the same prejudices between the two countries. Suddenly, as this little correction of the compressional invested to various parts of the world. This even petty and in a seese irrelevant.

The group of Senators and Representatives who visited the European Consultative Assembly and countries impressed most at common the construction of the preparation of the construction of the preparation of

# Just Remember, Not All The Government Folks Are Crooks

By JAMES MARLOW

WASHINGTON
NOTHING sensational about
for crookedness ed in 45 years
for crookedness the bucket compared with me than 50 fired in a year from the Internal Revenue
Bureau. Three chiselers sacked in almost half a century can't compete for interest with cut-rate

a year from the internal sevenue
Byreau.

Bureau.

Bureau.

Most half a century can't compete for interest with cut-rate
mink, home freezes, free Florida
plane trips.

From the scandisk now explotFrom the scandisk now explote
From the scandisk now in the scandis

Since the agency was founded in 1996 only three men had to be fired for crookedness.

From the beginning the agency has had a tradition that none og its employees could accept gits or favors of any kind from any person or organization in the drug-food-cosmetic field.

Further, legt it should create.

Further, lest it should create an embarrassing situation, the employees are not to accept lunch from anyone in that field.

and talless are as assumed to the control appear of the form appear on that field.

Each new employee is told what's expected of him. And on being hired by the agency, everyone has to get rid of any interest he may have in the food. The control of the control o

#### **Drew Pearson's** New Brooms Sweep Clean—For A While Merry-Go-Round

A LMOST every Administration when it first takes office uses a new broom when it comes to tax evasion. It cleans up at the expense of the Administration which preceded it. Then it leasn on the broom Penation of the Administration which preceded it. Then it leasn on the broom Penation of the property o

### Morgenthau's Tax System

DALLOWING this tax clean-up, the Roosevelt Adminis-tration settled down to a long period of reasonably sest tax-collecting. There were some tax cases fixed in servelt's day—to be discussed in a later column. But re-beaver Henry Morgenthau made such a square tit them that even FDR was reluctant to arouse Henry's

Furthermore, Morgenthau built up the most efficient collecting system this gountry had ever seen. His council finemal Revenue was Robert Jackson, who did such outstanding job that he was later elevated to the Sume Court; while the chief of his intelligence unit was

As Commissioner of Internal Revenue, Truman ap-pointed a mediocrity named George Schoeneman, who previously had been mixed up in a matter which could not bear the light of day; while as Deputy Commissioner he appointed Dan Bolich, who, when he took the oath of office, received so many flowers that the swearings in cer-mony looked like a ganguter's funeral. Obviously a lot of properties of the control of the control of the collecting laxes, and some of them later turned out to be ganguters.

All these appointments were made after Bob Han end of the big-tity bosses, took over the Dem tional Committee and the political fortunes of uman.

#### Sacrosanct Frankie Costello

WHEN Hannegan was promoted from Commissioner of Revenue to Nidonal Chairman, he appointed as his revenue to Nidonal Chairman, he appointed as his York. Nunan, in turn, retired High McQuilloctor in New York. Nunan, in turn, retired High McQuillocation chief of the New York intelligence unit, replacing him with Dan Bolich. In this key spot Bolich had the power of tax life or death over big-shot gamblers, big business, or anyone eise in New York.

or anyone cise in New York.

Later Nunan stepped out to practice law, leaving behind him his friend Dan Bolich, who became Deputy Commissioner in Washington—the No. 2 spot for collecting and taxes of the entire nation.

Among Nunan's clients, incidentally, were the night-tub owners of New York, which includes the king of the gamblers, Frankie Costelle.

At about this time, also, Harry Anslinger, Narcotice Commissioner, was watching Costello for possible connection with the dope rackets, but because of his limited staff, he had the help of twelve Internal Revenue agents. This was a natural co-operation, since both narcodies and revenue are under the Treasury.

But suddenly Bolich demanded that the twelve revenue he taken off the Costello assignment. Anslinger expression, and the control of the costello assignment.

Agents' Morale Damaged

NUMBER OF THE PARTY AND THE PA

their business. When they have finished an investigation, and when their recommendation for prosecution has been old by the senior special agent and the special agent in charge of a division, it is almost inconceivable that they have the prosecution of an innecent man. Yet during the Trumon armount of an innecent man. Yet during fraud cases later have been quashed in one of the textual cases later have been quashed in one of three blaces:

es: 1. The Chief Counsel's office under Charles Oliphant,