

THOMAS L. ROBINSON, Publisher
J. E. DOWD, General Manager
B. S. GRIFFITH, Executive Editor
C. A. MCKENIGHT, Editor

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 19, 1951

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 piece, the Commissioners sent spectators and newspapermen from the room and went into executive session. With no public observers on hand, the Commissioners then voted 4-1 to reject a petition to reroute a section of Dixie Road to permit the extension.

DEALING WITH A CHAMP

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 power in October. Britain has announced that it will meet both the interest and installments due Dec. 15 on its multi-billion dollar loans from this country. Britain had the right to waive the interest payments, but chose to dip into its precious gold and dollar reserves to meet the bill.

HOW ARE WE DOING?

THE guns and butter controversy has now been widened. A couple of weeks ago Texin Senator Johnston's Preparedness subcommittee declared that U. S. production of war material is "disappointing." The Senator Maybank's House Senate Defense Production Committee reported we are doing fine—there are plenty of guns, and enough butter, too.

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 disarmament resolution. A new committee was formed, which will presumably have no more success. However, one little-noticed event in the Assembly was the filing for future reference.

Section 153-8 of the General Statutes of 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.

Britain participate in these two groups. Mr. Churchill may have decided to make his country's participation in them a condition of certain commitments from the U. S. He can ask the U. S. "If this federation business you want us to join is so good why don't you come along too?" and he undoubtedly will tell Mr. Truman that Britain's Commonwealth commitments preclude his country's entry into European integration.

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

CAULDESE

THE Monroe Journal is misled about Yankee criticism of Lamar Caudle's Southern accent. It says Life Magazine made a great "show" of trying to quote Caudle phonetically and failed miserably. One radio commentator said Caudle's speech was as southern as the wee brakes.

Mr. Truman And The Press

An Editorial From The St. Louis Post-Dispatch President Truman's latest press conference made it about as clear as clear can be that the scandals in his own administration must have loomed big in his mind as he hurried back to Key West to Washington.

Presidential Petulance

Mr. Truman preides himself on his political astuteness, so he must recall that those disclosures led directly to the election of the Democratic Stevenson Administration and indirectly to his return to the White House. Gov. Adlai Stevenson won by 57,067 votes. Mr. Truman carried Illinois by a plurality of only 3,612.

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Life and others said about Caudle: Our verdict is against him. Whether our notorious migrant pick-up that molasses-dipped dialect from Wadesboro or points west, north or south, as transcribed by radio nothing so much as the way outlanders might mimic Southerners in fun.

Drew Pearson's Merry-Go-Round

ALMOST every Administration when it first takes office cleans up a new broom when it comes to tax evasion. It cleans up at the expense of the Administration which preceded it. Then it leans on the broom.

NICE BARGAIN IN EASY CHAIRS

NOW you take Mr. Joseph DiMaggio. People who keep up with such things tell me that had he desired he could have continued 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.

Morgenstau's Tax System

FOLLOWING this tax clean-up, the Roosevelt Administration set-ting down to a long period of reasonably honest tax-collecting. There were some tax cases fixed and the clean-up would hurt people in high places.

Sacrosanct Frankie Costello

WHEN Hannegan was promoted from Commissioner of Revenue to National Chairman, he appointed as his successor Joseph Nunan, who had been collector of the King committee, and in Ire's place he appointed W. H. Woolf, honest but not vigilant.

Agents' Morale Damaged

NATURALLY, all this makes for discouragement among the many tax agents who are working in the nation's tax offices. Backbone of the tax office is the intelligence unit, made up of some of the highest type men in the Internal Revenue. It is their job to detect fraud. These men are trained in the rules of evidence and know their business.

Just Remember, Not All The Government Folks Are Crooks

Nothing sensational about three men sacked in 45 years for crookedness in the Bureau. Not a drop in the bucket compared with more than 50 fired in a year from the Internal Revenue Bureau. Three chiselers sacked in at least half a century aren't complete for interest with cut-rate milk, home freezes, free Florida plane trips.

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One Senator Of Wily Type Spoils The Labor Of Others

WASHINGTON TRAVELERS returning from Bonn, Germany, by President Theodore Heuss, 67 years old, of venerable appearance and demeanor, received the Congressional group with due solemnity. Servants passed small glasses of wine and the German President proposed a toast to good relations between the two countries. Suddenly, as this little ceremony, the American delegation started to see Wiley grab President Heuss and whirl him about the room in a mad dance.

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