

THE CHARLOTTE NEWS

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FRENZIED FINANCING

It is impossible to predict accurately Federal expenditures and receipts in coming years. Changing economic conditions and new tax laws upset revenue calculations, and the changing world situation has its effect on expenditures.

Further complicating any clear picture of probable Federal finances is the system of authorizing future programs before money is set aside for them. This makes it hard to figure out what the Government will spend in any one fiscal year.

Nonetheless, the Joint Congressional Committee on the Economic Report, in a recent pamphlet entitled "National Defense and the Economic Outlook," has tried to project as accurately as possible the fiscal picture for 1952, 1953 and 1954. It projects the Federal administrative budget expenditures and receipts for these fiscal years as follows:

Fiscal Year	Estimated Expenditures	Estimated Receipts
1952	\$64.4 billion	\$66 billion
1953	\$73.3 billion	\$70 billion
1954	\$84 billion	\$70 billion

This would make an estimated deficit of \$23.3 billion in the three-year period.

The committee estimated the inflationary effect of this Federal spending by measuring the decrease in purchasing power of the dollar from the 1950 level:

1950	\$1,000.00
1951	904.1
1952	848.5
1953	792.5
1954	736.8

A GAME WITHOUT RULES

A SENATE subcommittee's criticism of Senator McCarthy for his role in the infighting that has characterized the 1950 has no so preoccupied public newsmen that anything and more important, section of the report has been virtually ignored.

Noting that no specific standards of improper campaign conduct and acts have been set up, the subcommittee contended it would be "grossly unfair" to create such standards now and apply them retroactively. It did, however, recommend these new standards:

1. Set up Senate rules formulating procedures for contesting elections and specify that use of defamatory literature in a Senatorial campaign will constitute grounds for contesting elections.
2. Set up Senate rules establishing responsibility on the part of a candidate for the acts of his campaign aides.
3. Ban misleading composite pictures, radio recordings, etc.
4. Making any sitting Senator regardless of whether he is a candidate in the election himself, subject to expulsion if he engages in any improper campaigning.
5. Revising the role of anonymous national groups in state elections and determine if it would be practical to identify the groups during a campaign.
6. Revise the Federal Corrupt Practices Act to make campaign spending limitations more realistic and more enforceable.
7. Urge political parties to establish fair campaigning standards.
8. Ask the Justice Department to study the committee hearings and reports for appropriate action.

A PLUG FOR ELECTORAL REFORM

INTERVIEWED in Blue Ridge, Senator John L. Sparkman of Alabama summed up in a very few words the reasons why the people of the South should give their full support to electoral reform along the lines of the Lodge-Cossett amendment now before Congress.

Under the proposed change, he said, "the vote of the Southern people who are opposed to the present Federal party system would be given to the establishment of a strong two-party system in the South which I think we need."

The Senator is right on both counts.

The Lodge-Cossett amendment would divide the electoral vote in each state in proportion to the candidates' popular vote instead of giving all the electoral votes to the leading candidate. Thus a vote against the Democratic Party—cast for the Republican candidate or for some third party movement for the Democratic candidate. Under the present system, the minority voters in the South are disenfranchised.

By putting all votes on an equal basis, the Lodge-Cossett amendment encourages the Republican Party to make a bona fide effort to carry The South, and thus provide the

Pitchmen of the Press

(This is the third of four articles on Westbrook Pegler from the Providence, R. I. Journal's 1950 series which won the 1951 Peabody Prize. The articles are reprinted by permission of the Journal Editors, The News.)

Westbrook Pegler—III

I ABHOR exaggeration in journalism.

This pronouncement was made by Westbrook Pegler in his newspaper column for Jan. 19.

That statement, a reporter combed Pegler's columns for 15 weeks, looking for practical demonstrations of this admirable concept.

One such demonstration was: "The Department of Labor is a colossal fraud performing no useful service for the whole public, but, on the contrary, serving only the interests and the pockets of the public injury."

It is to be regretted that Pegler did not demonstrate exaggerated statements, since many of the millions who read it may remember only that the Department of Labor as part of its duties produces statistics on the number of people employed and unemployed in the country, keeps a file of all labor contracts to which management and labor both have access, issues a quarterly survey of industrial accidents and monthly reports on building activity, conducts the United States Employment Service and a conciliation service for labor disputes. And Pegler missed a chance to be valuable to the financial and industrial system of the Nation which gears its operations in part to the statistics of the "colossal fraud performing no useful service."

ANOTHER LESSON

Another lesson by Pegler in how to avoid exaggeration in journalism came as a result of an incident in President Truman's inaugural ceremonies. The incident was reported by the Associated Press on Jan. 21 and the fact of the parade that passed the President's stand.

"But there was barely a smile on the President's face when Gen. Douglas Strom Thurmond of South Carolina rode past. Thurmond was the States' Right Party candidate for President."

On Feb. 24, presumably a few months to the month, it was cool down to the point where he would commit none of the abbreviated sentences which Pegler uses. This was beyond challenge the dirtiest piece of personal business dirt that I have seen in modern times. It was a private citizen, being naturally without honor, tried to lie away the incident, but he was not a witness and he did not stare with cold malice at the Thurmonds, with never a twinkle of respect in his eye.

His horror at exaggeration presumably was still at work when Pegler, on the occasion of the present editorial, said, "The Communists did the sabotage and the foreman with a son kicked out because a foreman with a son died on Guadalcanal."

It is not clear here whether Pegler means that the Communist saboteurs used a foreman with a son who died on Guadalcanal, or that the foreman with a son kicked out because a foreman with a son died on Guadalcanal, or that the Communist did the sabotage and the foreman with a son kicked out because a foreman with a son died on Guadalcanal.

MEANING NOT CLEAR

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WEDLOCK'S PITFALLS

WE DECLARE, it's getting so that there are just too many oracles and indices to check before one can safely let a romance spring into full wedlock.

This one, for example, from a recent study of income tax problems:

Question: A woman on a calendar year basis married a man whose return was on a fiscal year basis. May they file a joint 1040?

Answer: The Tax Court said they couldn't unless one changed to the basis of the other.

First you got to check the signs of the zodiac for compatibility, then you got to recognize the signs of the times.

Second, you may have to file a return for a partner, and that would be asking too much of all but the very ardent.

And after all that, you got to have a medical certificate.

We'd grade were already hitched.

Drew Pearson's Merry-Go-Round

(Editors Note: Drew Pearson is again a tour of Europe. His conditions for a column today take the form of a letter written from Germany to his wife about her son.)

MUNICH, Germany

Dear L. W.:

Driving up toward the Czech border the other night about dusk, I noticed a big lumbar bag along with a note behind it. The bag had been just from my convoy and we stopped it to inquire.

In the little car behind was you—was it you, or was it that big man like a bear in the heels of a recalcitrant bull because that was contained the most important part of our "Winds of Freedom" operation but we were sure we were going to get that right to the people of Czechoslovakia.

I left the car full of VIP's that I was riding and joined your car. I was only too glad to see what it was all about. What happened was that the friendship messages to the Czech people had been left sitting in Munich from Munich to Germany. The latter also were to be taken to join the main truck convoy which had left Munich at noon so Tyler was commissioned to remain behind to do the work on time.

I am writing you because I know he hasn't fulfilled his end of the bargain you every day but I think, when you read this, you'll understand why.

Winds of Freedom Shift

Winds of Freedom, incidentally, shift back and forth along the border and neither he nor I knew exactly

Go Easy On The Stuff. We've A Long Way To Go



STANDARDS HAVE CHANGED

For many years Pegler brought his strong language and militant skepticism to the general news. In many columns he also brought good reporting and persistent investigation of the State Police and other agencies. He was helped by a rival union, Pegler exposed Willie Bluff, the west coast brother. In 1940 Pegler won the Pulitzer Prize for a series of articles exposing the president of the Business Union of Employees International Union, A. F. L. The then-president George Sealie, fled before the fact of Pegler's investigation and was sent to jail.

But somewhere along the line, Pegler who used to announce himself as a friend of labor and who even used to print admiring articles about President Hoover, Eleanor Roosevelt became embittered both about American unions and labor. The result of this was that he devoted himself almost entirely to the retraction of his own previous work. This study was made, he devoted himself almost entirely to the retraction of his own previous work.

How To Cut Road Deaths

CHARLOTTE

Editors, The News:

YOUR editorial of August 15, "An Example for Tar Heels," is of much interest to me because I happen to have been the man who, as the Commissioner of the State Police and as Governor of Pennsylvania and in keeping with the orders of the Governor, George H. Earle, carried out the measure which resulted in the big reduction in highway deaths in 1950, as mentioned by Otto F. Messner and quoted in the editorial. The figures given in 2-3-4-5 are correct. The figures were reduced from 632 in 1937 to 1,660 in 1958, a reduction of 30 per cent and the largest reduction in the United States.

While the statement that "speed is the greatest killer on the American highways" is correct, there is very little relation between the legal maximum speed limit and the death rate. The reason being that the "legal speed limit" is not effectively enforced. The only time when the enforcement was really effective was in Pennsylvania in 1938 when Governor Earle directed that, upon conviction in the courts of first instance (generally that of the Justice of the Peace) the license of a driver would be suspended indefinitely for 90 days. While the accused could appeal to a higher court and until he might be found "not guilty" of the offense as charged.

That really "put teeth" into the order. There were many things which helped to the desired end, among these were: "no fear or favor" to the politicians; the speed limit was reduced to 30 miles per hour; the license of a driver would be destroyed at the request of some political friend of the accused. One time the Speaker of the Legislature was arrested for exceeding the speed limit and the law took its course. Also we painted half of the highway Patrol automobiles white, so that drivers could see the cooperation of the police and officers. Our purpose was to prevent speeding, accidents, and death, not just to try to catch the attention of the public to a remarkable degree. We also had enough patrolmen to make themselves really effective on the highways. There were 600 men on the police force—we assigned about 600 men to the criminal work and about 1,000 men to the highway patrol.

There is, I think, something wrong with the figures quoted by Mr. Messner in trying to show that death rates in the various States vary widely. It is a complicated matter and is based on the laws of those states. I simply cannot believe that a "speed limit" of 40 miles per hour in Massachusetts would result in a death rate as low as that.

I think the error lies in the calculations of the death per 100,000 miles traveled. The number of miles traveled is based on the amount of gasoline consumed in the various states, which is translated into "miles traveled" by assuming a rate of 15 miles per gallon. If the totals include the expenditures made in driving in cities, it is evident there will be a great discovery be-

Quote, Unquote

We are indebted to a subscriber for this wonderful piece of wisdom attributed to the late Woodrow Wilson. He did not want to live under a phylloxera. I do not want to be taken care of by the Government, either directly or by instruments through which the Government acts. I do not want only to have right and justice prevail as I am concerned. Give me right and justice and I will undertake to take care of myself.—Eugene (Miss) Webster Progers.

Progress will come to an end when children agree with the views of their parents.—Talbot G. Era.

Launching Complicated Task

where to join the other trucks. But he had instructions to meet a lookout in front of the post office in Weiden, a little town ten miles from the border. The lookout did not appear. Pegler waited for an hour. At last, a man in a grey coat and white shirt finally delivered the two military messages to the Czech people on time.

The truck was parked on a narrow road toward Pilsen and Prague, the two largest cities of Czechoslovakia. It was a complicated operation, as you can see from what follows. The truck was loaded with a circus train and it reminded me of my old tent-wrecking days. Electric generators are at one end of the convoy, though the trucks are at the other. The trucks are so big they can't be filled inside the trucks, so the hydrogen tanks are laid side-by-side on the ground.

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Germans Seem Pacificists

GERMAN youth, supposedly by the military maneuver, seem to be unusually pacific. German youngsters are just as unenthusiastic about raising an army as your son and other American youngsters are about the thought of going to fight in the Pacific.

It is true that the German youth is not so enthusiastic about the prospect of war. However, I am convinced that Moscow wants to wait a considerable time through which the German youth will be trained and ready to fight. It is true that the German youth is not so enthusiastic about the prospect of war. However, I am convinced that Moscow wants to wait a considerable time through which the German youth will be trained and ready to fight.

Anyway, I drove back to Munich at 3 A. M. leaving your son up on the border. The big truck was loaded with 44 A. M. and continued until 6 but he didn't get back to Munich with the trucks until noon, making a 26-hour day—6 A. M. till noon the next day.

Well, that's your son hasn't written any why I am trying to report for him.

I am very longsome and anxious to get home. It's rained a lot here and I hope you had some of it. I had a very long drive home. I had a very long drive home. I had a very long drive home.

DREW