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THE SPEEDER AND THE DRUNK DRIVER

The latest report by the N. C. Department of Motor Vehicles supports the premise that the speeder, rather than the drunk driver, is the No. 1 death-dealer on the highways today.

From January through March of this year, 263 drivers were involved in 302 fatal accidents which claimed 239 lives. Drunk driving was a factor in only 18 percent of the accidents.

MEMO TO CHARLOTTEANS

THREE little items from the current issue of The United States Municipal News are of interest to Charlotteans who have watched with some dismay as their City Council dabbled with this urgent problem.

Item 1: In a move to assure continuing progress of off-street parking garage projects during its summer recess, the Buffalo, N. Y., Common Council directed the City's public works commissioner to put architects and engineers to work on plans for four new downtown parking ramps.

AN ANNUAL LEGISLATURE?

Speaking in Kannapolis the other day, Rep. Kerr Grazier Ramsey of Rowan County, former Speaker of the House, tossed out the suggestion that the N. C. General Assembly should meet annually instead of every two years.

Mr. Ramsey pointed out the difficulty of plotting the State's fiscal affairs so far in advance, and thought the annual session might enable the Legislature to forecast revenues and make appropriations more intelligently.

When the General Assembly resumes revenue more than two years in advance, it can make only two errors: (1) underestimate, or (2) overestimate. Let's see what happens in either case.

If the General Assembly underestimates revenue, North Carolina's flexible appropriations system starts to operate. The Governor and the Bureau of the Budget have wide latitude in transferring funds within the various budget divisions.

HI YO SILVER (GULP)

There is divided opinion in Washington, observes The New Republic, over whether the \$200 should be known as the "Horse Meat Congress" or "The Dog Food Congress."

A bit reluctantly, we vote for the former form. It is sad but true that Old Dobbin, who has steadily fattening away since Henry Ford first put a car around Detroit in '24, is making a comeback, but he's coming to the table, not the stable.

Fleet decheuz sales have increased 100 per cent recently in the Bay area of California, and many steak barbecues are the thing to do in some cities to supplement cheap steaks and sausage with horse meat.

The current issue of Consumer Reports points up an issue which was bound to develop. At present most horse meat is not inspected, much of it is sold at pet shops, which aren't inspected or controlled.

Some of us can recall when a boy picking on a guitar and singing country songs was regarded as a nuisance instead of a potential millionaire.—Memphis Commercial-Appeal.

With the ending of credit restrictions, the common car makes its way farther.—18 months instead of 15.—New Orleans States.

Two types of fellows who keep you worried: One who never settles down, and the other who never settles up.—Bartow (Ga.) Herald.

Brass Believes Commie Peace Campaign Will Fold in Frisco

By MARQUIS CHILDS

MILITARY MEN who began by taking a hopeful view of the Korean truce talks have now turned pessimistic. They point to the significant change in the attitude of the Communists, it is believed, a decision by the top Communist leadership to abandon the peace effort.

The significant change is in the propaganda line put out by the North Korean and Chinese Communist spokesmen. Shortly after Jacob Malik, Russian delegate to the U.N., made the first open peace proposal, a change took place.

Up to that point this had been viciously reiterated. As the talks seemed to progress the attack line was dropped altogether. About ten days ago it was resumed and now it is virulent as ever.

Naturally this is not conclusive. But the belief is growing in the Pentagon, it is felt, that the talks most closely that the latest switch is in preparation for renewed fighting.

Second, Secretary of State Acheson stated in his testimony before the MacArthur hearings that the Communists are not serious.

THE ODDDEST feature of the present political situation is the growing resignation to a future which almost everyone seems to have to live with.

In the case of Sen. Robert A. Taft, it is a little doubtful indeed that his enormous and fabulously well-heeled organization will be able to maintain its position for him unless Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower becomes a candidate.

But if the polls mean anything, Senator Taft must be rated as having very little solid appeal to the national electorate, despite his remarkable personal popularity.

MEANWHILE, the best commentary on this looming choice between Taft and Truman and Eisenhower is provided by the Eisenhower movement. The Republican anti-Taftites and Senator Douglas are actually dependent upon foreign sources, chiefly Brazil and India, for strategic metals.

Many users—despite the lessons of the war—still considered the cloudy Carolina steel mica as the most desirable mica for the Department of Commerce which estimated that more than two-thirds of the mica equipment in each of these balloons, written on waterproof paper, and they scatter down in all directions.

Now the United States once again finds itself in a jam. Mica, it is recognized, is an A-1 insulator, and is vital.

For, instead of sending balloons 5,000 miles across the sky, they have been sent down from 10 miles from the Czech border. Thus almost every balloon is likely to hit—though some may overshoot the mark and come down in Poland.

Now there is a total of about fifteen million messages have been raised in on twelve and a half million people in an area somewhat smaller than Virginia and West Virginia.

Other type of pillow balloon probably is treating Czechoslovakia to a siege of flying-saucer hoaxing. The smaller editions of the huge plastic pillows made by General Mills which airplane pilots have sighted in the sky and identified as flying saucers.

The much smaller plastic pillows, made by General Mills, have been seen over Czechoslovakia. They have the same eerie quality of the flying saucers. It is now no secret that these flying plastic pillows are part of the Navy's experimental work on the cosmic ray.

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We Bow To The Popular Will

By TOM SCHLESINGER

United States would be willing to end the war with the 38th Parallel as a line of settlement. The Communists, it is now believed, put great stress on this. They took to Acheson statement as a firm declaration of policy on which they could depend.

At the very time he was making this statement, however, military planners in Washington were privately expressing their disagreement. They considered the Parallel an indefensible line from a military viewpoint. Moreover, they were convinced U.N. forces could advance farther north to a better line and that it would be folly to recede to any more southerly position as a result of armistice talks.

Not only in the Korean talks but in other recent moves, there is evident in the American attitude toward Russia an over-emphasis on rigidity. This rigidity, which matches the Soviet inflexibility, is a definite handicap. By being so rigid, we make every move and speak every word within an iron-clad, triple-plated self-protection.

Increasingly it is as though we were talking to our own reflection when we address the United States Union. How are we doing, we ask the image in the mirror, we fail to see the cracks in the Communist armor and therefore we will fail to take advantage of it.

What is essential above all else in an area of maneuverability is the exploration of military and economic possibilities as they arise. The disposure of vast quantities of atomic energy and their use on so much armor that they went down to extinction. There is a lesson for today in their fate.

Interior Secretary Oscar L. Chapman, in releasing the report, called for an intensification of the exploration of mineral deposits and an expanded mining program.

"This country's trend toward greater dependence on foreign sources for some of our most important metals and nonmetals must be reversed," Chapman declared.

His words were almost an echo of those of the Tar Heel mica men who have been pointing out since the beginning of the present emergency that the United States at present virtually dependent upon foreign sources, chiefly Brazil and India, for strategic metals.

Through the last war, mica sources for some of our most important metals and nonmetals were being developed in the United States. Three out of four mica deposits in the best mica districts of the country fall within the final plans as decided upon.

MEANWHILE, Representative Hamilton C. Jones and Woodrow W. Jones, into whose districts the three counties fall, are looking in new perspective when the final plans are decided upon.

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In this poll, incidentally, Taft is rated both fourth best and fourth worst. Estes Kefauver (D-Tenn.) is rated second best. Orrin G. Robinson (D-Ore.) are second and third best while second and third worst were William E. Jenner (R-Ind.) and William C. Coker (D-Miss.).

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News From The Capital

Boom Seen For N. C. Mica

By TOM SCHLESINGER

Charlotte News Special Writer THERE were stirring words in Washington this week that will be felt all the way to the remote Carolina mountain counties.

They were tied up with a Bureau of Mines study pointing to an "alarming decline" in the Nation's self-sufficiency in strategic metals and minerals.

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People Want Ike But Seem Resigned To Taft Or Truman

By JOSEPH and STEWART ALSOP

In the case of President Truman, there is not much doubt about his present weakness in the country, which is revealed by the polls. The question mark about Truman is whether he will make the race, or hand on the succession to another man of his choice, most probably Chief Justice.

But if political human nature has not greatly changed, Truman must be rated as more than likely to run. On this question, to be sure appearances ought to be almost wholly ignored. Whatever else he wishes, the President certainly desires to retain his authority until the end of his term and to control the convention that will choose his own successor.

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Fifteen Million Messages Shower Czechs

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Committee for Free Europe. The latter committee, headed by Gen. Lucian Laury, put the Freedom Bell in Berlin last year and has been doing an important job ever since in broadcasting into satellite countries from two radio stations in southern Germany.

Balloons on April 13. It was exactly four months later, Aug. 13, that the first balloon was launched over Czechoslovakia.

During that four months more detailed preparation went into this operation than the Czech Communists would expect. One meteorologist and two balloon experts were launched and a first conference regarding Friendship balloons was held in Prague.

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