

THE CHARLOTTE NEWS

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AUTO INSPECTION GAINS FAVOR

THOUGH motor vehicle inspection was buried under a mass of opposition in the 1949 and 1951 sessions of the North Carolina General Assembly, the system is increasing in popularity elsewhere.

A recent survey by the Association of Casualty & Surety Companies shows that two new states, West Virginia and Texas, joined this year the twelve states and the District of Columbia which already had auto inspection programs in operation. This brings to more than 13,000,000 the number of vehicles in the nation that are getting regular inspection.

West Virginia and Texas both provided for private inspection stations appointed by the State, the system preferred in ten of the twelve earlier auto inspection states. Those ten states had an average traffic death rate of 4 per cent. lower than the national average in 1950—6.9 deaths per 100 million vehicle miles. Significantly, the average death rate in the two states with state-owned and operated inspection stations was 4.1 per cent. lower—3.7 per cent below the national average.

Of course, other factors such as speed limits, adequacy of highways, rigid law enforcement, and strict driver examinations have some effect on the highway death toll. But there is no denying the importance of automobile inspection. In Pennsylvania, which has had an inspection system for many years, fatal accidents attributable to faulty mechanism amounted to less than 4 per cent of the total, compared with the national average of 13 per cent for such accidents.

Julian H. Harvey, manager of the Association's accident prevention department, hailed the action of the Texas and West Virginia legislatures as indicating steady progress toward "the ultimate goal of periodic inspection for every vehicle in every state as a simple precaution for greater safety for everyone."

The defeat of automobile inspection in North Carolina after a two-year experiment has been attributed to faulty management of the State lanes. Surely a State that has been so successful in so many fields will not forever deny itself the extra safety dividend inherent in the system.

TOYING WITH SMOKE CONTROL

CHARLOTTE residents who view with foreboding the approaching fall of winter smoke and soot might well ponder the tendency of the City Council to play footsie with repeated violators of the smoke abatement ordinance.

At this week's Council meeting, the City Fathers postponed once again a show-down with a local laundry operator who has already had many months to clean up the fly-ash that belches out over the neighborhood of his plant. It was argued that smoke abatement is a slow and continuing project that must be "sold" to those who are violating the ordinance, that voluntary co-operation is better than compulsion. Hence, the City should best wear its hat as a mediator, rather than an undue hardships on any one individual.

This is an appealing argument, and it has a great deal of merit. But when all efforts

at educating a violator into voluntary compliance fail, then the City must act decisively and firmly to enforce the ordinance. Else the law is not worth the space it requires in the City Code.

Unnecessary smoke, soot and fly-ash are the products of inefficient heating and firing systems. The inefficiency may result from cheap equipment, or from the faulty operation of the equipment. In either event, it is more costly over the long haul to the violator, and it creates a problem for the community that is both a nuisance and a health hazard.

Smoke abatement is a sound engineering principle. It is a logical function of municipal government. But unless the City Council shows more courage and forthrightness than it has in the past, the ordinance will soon become a joke.

PHANTOM AIR FORCE

THIS TIME the show is on the other foot. The Order of Malta now boasts quite an air force—81 planes so far and probably more on the way. The Order of Malta is not a country, has neither land nor people. It is for present purposes, merely a dodge by which Italy can exceed peace treaty limits on her air force.

The Italian treaty negotiated following World War II limits the country to only 200 fighters and reconnaissance planes and 150 transport planes. Italy is now getting some British and American planes, so in order to put them in her "regular" air force, the eight-century-old Order was revived as a sort of phantom country.

About 20 years ago, quite a furs arose when German "glider" clubs became very active. In that case, Germany chose to evade her treaty restrictions on air-power by training

her air men in these groups. Her World War I adversaries objected. The Order of Malta deal is progressing with the apparent full knowledge and approval of the other Atlantic Pact countries.

Yes, times change fast. It's probably a good idea to build up the Italian air force quickly—it's on our side this time—and at the rate treaties get ratified or changed another war might be fought and the Italians on the other side of the fence again if the "ghosts" in quota, show treaties aren't worth much if the spirit isn't willing.

But this order of Malta deal takes the cake. If we're going to build up air forces for phantoms let's carry the idea all the way through. As a starter, we'd vote for assigning the national debt to the Republic of Mars.

VODKA AND RUSSIAN DIPLOMACY

VODKA, that favorite beverage from Vladivostok to Leningrad, is fading away.

In its stead, according to intelligence from Stockholm, Soviet economic aid is being used to produce a Carolina costume which is a vodka cognac.

Now when the Soviets do something, they have a reason. What, we wonder, is the significance of this cold shoulder toward Russian vodka?

At first thought, one would imagine that the WCTU has been able to influence the Politburo. That seems unlikely, though, after several seconds of meditation, because (1) women don't have the vote, (2) neither do Uncle Joe and his boys, (2) neither do Christians, and (3) the Russians are not temperate.

Is rye perhaps in short supply? No, for according to a reputable and recent reference book the USSR grows about one-half the world's supply of that cereal.

The real reason, we imagine, reflects an ideological trend and substitutes what we've been saying all along—the Russians are going to continue to be harder and harder to get along with. The point is best illustrated by a cartoon we saw recently, in which two girls were talking over the phone. One said, "I don't see how those Russians can say 'No' so often," said one. "When I drink vodka I say 'Yes' to anything."

Some Russian have apparently been showing signs of agreeability. We can now expect firmer and more frequent "Niets."

From The Louisville Courier-Journal

THE MEDICINE MAN AND TAX COLLECTORS

"COUSIN DUD" Leblanc, the astute creator of Hadacol and many of the legion of jokes which advertise that concoction, is nobody's fool. A report that he is selling the patent-medicine company for \$8,000,000 a 15-year job contract bringing \$100,000 a year, is bound to interest the internal revenue department. At the moment, he is spending on testimonial advertising, medicine shows and other costly but many promotion devices. The excess-profits tax cuts into Cousin Dud's fairly lavish take and by selling the lot on his terms he can save by paying the actual smaller capital gains tax at the actual sale price. The slice of his \$100,000 income that will be left after taxes is evidently going to be sufficient to indulge a few caprices like running for governor.

It is a little difficult to believe that a truly successful research foundation would have the intention of continuing its manufacture, a product that even its inventor concedes is of pretty shadowy usefulness to the human race. There seems to be a little confusion

among members of the Hadacol family as to just who is buying the firm and why.

According to Cousin Dud it is a cancer research foundation which, as a non-profit corporation can claim tax exemption. According to the firm's publicity man, the purchasers are "a group of Eastern financiers and businessmen." The latter sounds more likely. It doesn't seem how those Russians can say "No" so often, said one. "When I drink vodka I say 'Yes' to anything."

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The Army now has developed Arctic clothes which keep a man comfortable at 30 below zero. When will they get busy at Ft. Brax to produce a Carolina costume which will keep a man cool at 100 degrees?

"I wouldn't vote for you if you were St. Peter," a local candidate was told when he was solicited in the recent primary. His answer was "I don't see how those Russians can say 'No' so often, said one. "When I drink vodka I say 'Yes' to anything."

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News From The Capital

Senate Sweats Through Big Docket

By TOM SCHLESINGER
Charlotte News Special Writer

WASHINGTON

IT'S getting to be an annual affair here that the sweating Senators at work while the lucky lawmakers of the lower House relax at home waiting for "the greatest deliberative body in the world" to catch up with it.

The House of Representatives is currently on a 20-day holiday, with the Senators facing no hope for relaxation before Oct. 1, if they return.

You might well wonder what is behind this yearly legislative lag. And experts, without hard trying, could wrap you up with a variety of reasons. They would range from the Senate's lack of limit on debate to the difficulty of summoning a quorum because of the increased number of afternoon committee meetings.

Senator Clyde R. Hoey is a veteran in the business now. He says this year's slowdown isn't hard to figure—the MacArthur hearings," he declared. "The sessions took up the time of the members of the important Armed Services and Foreign Relations Committees, keeping them from both other committee meetings and from the Senate floor."

What the Senator was pointing up is a real problem. There are only 98 members in the upper House. Each must load more heavily with committee assignments. Senate floor, for instance, has three committees in addition to his time-consuming investigating subcommittee.

Another factor is it is rare in the House indeed to find a member with more than two, and if he is on a major committee, that is usually his only assignment.

Another factor, the Senator indicated, is the constitutional provision that tax and appropriation measures must originate in the House. As a member of the Finance Committee, he pointed out that the House took up the tax measure in February, but didn't turn it over to the Senate until June 17.

And, he added, with defense appropriations at a peaktime pace, the Senate does not whip many measures through as it formerly did. Hours are spent trying to cut deeper or save Appropriation Committee slices on the floor.

Senator Hoey said the suggested "time-saving" joint hearings on these and other matters actually weren't practical.

Senator Willis Smith's sudden departure with Rep. Harold Cooley and other Congressmen for Istanbul, Turkey was as much a surprise to his office staff as the public.

He told his office Thursday that he would be leaving Saturday, and that was it. He will attend

the Interparliamentary Union's annual meeting which lasts through Sept. 12.

This week, he missed action on the foreign aid measures. His office says he may return before the conference's conclusion if any important votes come up. The Senate has before it now uncompleted "must" legislation containing authorizations and appropriations of record appropriations.

Representatives from 37 countries will be at the gathering of countries which have parliamentary form of government. The Congressional group expects to see General Eisenhower in Paris. The joint, incidentally, is Cooley's sixth to the Union's yearly meetings.

Slight, holding Rep. Charles B. Deane has secured much foreign policy savvy since 1946 when he turned from his home in Rockingham, N. C. to the art of lawmaking in Washington.

Perhaps his biggest strides were made while a member of the Congressional committee which toured the Far East in 1949, conferring with that dozen key figures.

His most publicized find there, much quoted now, was contained in a memo to President Truman. Deane reported that General MacArthur "has indicated only one basic weakness: that the Chinese Communists could be 'easily' defeated in any major conflict," and said that Chiang Kai-shek "has no real military strength."

More recently, Deane has made it a point to query State Department officials, confer with U. N. leaders generally keep on top of international developments.

Shortly before the House adjourned, the 5th District Representative gave an opportunity to answer on a national radio program the question whether our foreign policy has been effective.

His reply, quoted in part, pointed to what he considered only one basic weakness: that the policy was ineffective in three fields:

Economically, in stabilizing Greece and Turkey and other areas of Europe through the Truman doctrine and the Marshall Plan.

Politically, in the results of the Italian elections of 1948, in the various international agreements, such as the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, and in the approaching Japanese peace treaty.

Militarily, in the expensive law enforcement system of the Berlin airlift and in courageous response to the aggression in Korea.

Another basic weakness in the fourth field which, he declared, "may in the long run, prove to be the most decisive of all—the ideological field. We have not been able to fully grasp the fact that we are in an ideological war of ideas."

Drew Pearson's Merry-Go-Round All Can Take Part In War On Inflation

(Ed. note—While Drew Pearson is on a brief vacation, the Washington Merry-Go-Round is being written by several distinguished contributors.)

By MICHAEL V. DISALLE, Director
Office of Price Stabilization

WRITING this column for Drew Pearson today instead of reading it, deprives me of a pleasure I enjoy each morning. For each morning I read the column to find out what his predictions are on what we are about to do, and surprisingly enough sometimes the predictions have been right. Occasionally, reading the column is not a pleasant experience, for some of the things he says I guess no one likes to see his friends unhappy.

Generally, however, I enjoy the column because of its hard-hitting support of the stabilization program which we feel is so right and so necessary. We appreciate this support because of the attitude of some people in treating the Office of Price Stabilization like an unwanted child. Like the unwanted child, we did not want to be born. We were not self-created. We were born out of the emergency in Korea plus the need for a strong American defense against aggression. Our work parallels the work of the other emergency mobilization agencies created by the Defense Production Act to build this defense for America.

Other agencies have the obligation of spurring production and channeling materials. Our job is the control of prices which are so susceptible to rises in times when the national economic resources are under pressure.

This obligation is bound to place us in conflict with those individuals who look on the nation's emergency as a time for systematic plundering of its resources. These shortsighted individuals do not seem to know or care that this process produces only phony dollars. Their own actions strike at the strength of the system which they praise about, but so poorly.

Minority Sets Pace

THE dangerous thing is that those people are a minority but they become pace-setters if the nation leaves them

Communism In Government's; McCarthyism Seems The Issue

By JOSEPH & STEWART ALSOP

WASHINGTON

THESE SEEMS to have been more than the eye in President Truman's side on Senator McCarthy before the American Legion, which has now been followed by a similar speech by Secretary of Labor Maurice Tobin before the Veterans of Foreign Wars.

In brief, the signs are accumulating that with the election campaign in mind, the President has decided to accept battle with the Republicans on their own chosen ground. They want to see the Government "Communistized" by Government. Truman has now got angry enough to choose as his opponent "McCarthyism" and what is doing to American political standards." Another hint that this is the way things are going was Vice-President Alben W. Barkley's strong defense of Secretary of State Dean G. Acheson's early attack on Acheson's attackers before the Mid-West Democratic rally in the Florsy Field.

This decision of the President's can mean a lot more than the mere fact that he has named McCarthy, which has already been widely reported. For one thing, it can largely shape the course of the debate in the coming presidential campaign. It seems odd and tragic that McCarthyism-Communism should be the subject of a coming main campaign topic, in a time when the political decisions crucial problems of the country are the difference between this nation's destruction or survival. There are many more important issues than if we only had larger men to talk about them. Yet in view of the progressive debasement of American

political life that McCarthyism symbolizes, the President's decision is another thing that is decidedly admirable.

ACHESON MAY STAY out of this another thing that this Presidential decision must mean, if the wisecracker interpret the somewhat mysterious, earlier in the House climate correctly. Earlier in the summer, the President seemed to have been worn down by the repeated pleas of the committee's other Democratic leader, and to be preparing to allow Secretary of State Acheson to say what he likes. As earlier reported in this space, the evidence then indicated that Acheson would resign at the first opportune moment, after a Korean cease-fire or some other similar event that allowed the President to resign. Acheson's resignation would have been a major campaign issue, and the President's decision to name McCarthy as the main campaign issue, the odds on Acheson's future are thereby reversed. Acheson can hardly be permitted to go if one of the great combat of the campaign is to be conducted, as it were, across his body.

The unseen effects of the Secretary of State remaining in office have been perhaps even more important; for the resulting McCarthyism about Acheson's name in Congress has led to a sort of black-mail on our policy. Hence certain crucial problems of the country, such as the situation in Yugoslavia, have been tackled very gingerly. And other problems, perhaps even more important, have been obvious danger of another war, economic crisis in Britain, have not been tackled at all.

By-Pass By Brass Brass Burns Civilian Defense Secretaries

By MARQUIS CHILDS

WASHINGTON

WHEN CHAIRMAN CARL VINSON of the House Committee on Services Committee returns from his vacation in Georgia, he will find a lot of correspondence waiting for him. They will be answers to the letters sent out by Vinson just before the "House of Representatives" demanded to know why the Navy and the Air Force could not agree on a combined plan for the use of atomic air with ground troops at the Southern Plains maneuvers.

The Navy and the Air Force are in the test when informed that all their plans, including those of the Marine Corps, would be under the direction of the Air Force and would use Air Force methods. Differing from the Air Force, the Marines are being asked to provide tactical support to specific troop units.

In identical letters which Vinson called on the military chiefs of each service, on the civilian Secretaries of Air, Army, Navy and on the Joint Chiefs of Staff, for an explanation. He has proposed that the Air Force be made of the 95 groups to 163 groups.

According to the close of his mind, Vinson is asking by whom considers the attempt of the military to determine the allocation of the nation's resources in the Air Force and in the Army and men without regard for the controls exercised by civilians both in the Pentagon and at the Capitol.

If one accepts the word of those to whom he chooses to disclose his views, the loss of the military services Committee is especially indignant at General Bradley.

Among the replies, I have seen, are the civilian secretaries' services. Vinson will find considerable sympathy for this viewpoint.

It is a pity that the Secretary of the Air Force did not see the decision taken by the Navy to withdraw from the Southern Plains test.

Back of this is a growing concern of the public and the fact that they are a being bypassed. They feel that they are

being presented with decisions taken by the Joint Chiefs of Staff and the Secretary of Defense, and it is impossible to alter those decisions.

The feeling was at least implied in the speech that Air Secretary Thomas K. Finletter delivered recently before the House. He talked about the need to integrate new weapons into the war plan as well as the general and the Air Force. He also said further that any official has good and adequate knowledge of the state of the war, the larger quantities than ever before, necessitating a complete revision of military planning in relation to America's most potent military resource.

What Finletter and other civilians in the Pentagon feel is that the Joint Chiefs will make a decision to increase the number of Air Force through the kind of compromise that has prevailed in the past. The number of Air Force groups would be increased to, say 185, and the Navy and Marine Corps would be increased to a strength would be in the order of 15 groups.

But at the same time, the Navy would be increased by 100 groups, which could not be justified by any objective analysis of the country's needs. The Army would increase the Army would go up to a total of 27 divisions in being and they would be outside the divisions with all sorts of special units attached to them.

It is a compromise, as the civilian critics see it, might serve the interests of the three separate services. But it certainly would not be in the national interest since it would mean a staggering cost, part of which would be totally unnecessary. It would mean a staggering cost, part of which would be totally unnecessary. It would mean a staggering cost, part of which would be totally unnecessary.

The decision is complicated by the fact that the public has a right to know what is going on. Some professional military writers, who have written a great deal of good material, are also being bypassed. They feel that they are

being bypassed—the white collar worker, the low income worker, the Government worker, the pensioner, the man or woman who has worked for many years and has finally been laid off, the man or woman who has served in the service overseas. All these people see their standard of living reduced and their hope for a secure old age shattered. They see the same time line tear down the American economy. They see the same time line tear down the American economy. They see the same time line tear down the American economy.

The Incentive Is Sufficient

THE need to protect our people from inflation and the J. absolute need for stability to help achieve defense production objectives all the incentive they need to support our price stabilization program would it profit us if we strain our resources to build military strength and at the same time tear down the American economy? It is a question that we must ask ourselves.

So many Americans ask, "What can I do to help in these times?" So many feel hopeless because they cannot afford to buy the things they need. They see the same time line tear down the American economy. They see the same time line tear down the American economy.

The businessman can practice restraint in his pricing program. The consumer can avoid buying all except those things he really needs.

There has been what the economist call a "softening" of prices on many items at this time. But the American people are still paying too much for many of the things they need. The pressures ahead are building up—rising world prices, a billion dollars a week in U.S. defense production, a billion dollars a week in U.S. defense production, a billion dollars a week in U.S. defense production.

Common sense, hardheaded realism and a determination to see that the country is not through for the national security will see us through a difficult two years ahead.

Certainly this is a small price to preserve the freedom, the security and the abundant living standards that Americans have built for themselves through the years.