

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

THURSDAY, JANUARY 26, 1952

PRIZE-WINNING EDITORIAL

(The following editorial was selected by North Carolina Press Association judges as the best editorial appearing in daily newspapers in the last year. The editorial comments on President Herbert Hoover's address in which he first outlined the "Fortress America" concept and launched the nation into The Great Debate on the conduct of foreign policy. It was written by C. A. McKnight, editor of The News who won the first time in the history of the awards, won top prize for editorial writing in 1948 and 1949. His entry, "Fortress America," was the best in the 1950 judging.)

HOOPER'S PLAN FOR AMERICA

FORMER President Herbert Hoover's health would permit, he ought to get the best editorial award in the country. It takes him to walk around the earth with no stops except for refueling. He ought to climb into the cold belly of a new snail-type submarine and discover how easy it is to glide for transoceanic distances on the surface, displacing all known methods of detection. He ought to drop in on the Pentagon's huge communications center and note how the world is tied together with split-second communication networks.

He ought, in brief, to learn what he has never known, or what he has forgotten—that the earth has shrunk in a terrifying fashion, and that all basic concepts of U. S. security are being accordingly. For what Mr. Hoover's address in his celebrated address Wednesday night was a return to U. S. foreign policy of the pre-World War I period—a policy that was based on the geographical isolation of this hemisphere by its two great oceans, and which has been utterly outmoded by scientific progress goes without saying. That such a policy would ruthlessly and cruelly junk the whole concept of a free world and a brotherhood of man should not be surprising.

Mr. Hoover's plan to fashion an iron curtain of our own excluding all the free world beyond its two oceans has been hailed as a "fool's policy," and the American people have their heads down. His original date to George Washington. It was the theme song of Lodge, Borah and Hiram Johnson when they successfully fought U. S. participation in the League of Nations. North Carolina's Bob Taylor has been urging it since 1902, and Col. Bertie McCormick of the Chicago Tribune has been demanding it since the memory of man running the 1940 era asked the same thing.

And, by that ironical juxtaposition of anti-Communists and pro-Communists that we have seen so often in these confused days, the New York Daily Mirror has been a discredited Vito Marcantonio has been playing substantially the same tune.

There are so many things that can be said in answer to Mr. Hoover that you scarcely know where to begin. The ex-President took another crack at appeasement of Communism, saying, "We want no more Teherrans and Yalts." Yet the communists, like Stalin at Tcheran and Yalta were truly indeed compared to the whole land grants Mr. Hoover would make—all of Europe including Scandinavia, all of Africa, the oil-rich Middle East, and the Far East. Hoover would give Russia take over the whole world without firing a shot, a development that would exceed Stalin's wildest dreams.

Mr. Hoover now says it would be disastrous to give the Communists a land battle against Communists anywhere in the world. Yet a few months ago he was in the forefront of those who were bitterly exhorting the Republican Party to go to war against the administration because it would not go all-out to aid China. That's a policy that would have committed U. S. soldiers against Chinese Communists in an area least valuable to our security.

Mr. Hoover would cross off the United Nations because it has not managed, in the DEWEY'S WARNING

GVERNOR DEWEY'S speech Thursday night on our Pacific policy is worth noting not only because of his prominence in the Republican Party, but because the idea that General Eisenhower become the next President, Mr. Dewey may be directing that policy as Secretary of States less than a year hence.

In calling for issuance of a warning now to Communist aggression in Southeast Asia will bring forceful retaliation, he unequivocally declared himself on a subject which most Republicans would have considered off-limits. The many GOP Congressmen who condemned U. S. policy in Korea, after aggression there, have been reluctant to commit themselves on policy to be followed before similar aggression occurs in Indo-China.

Senator Kerr Might Get Nod From Truman

By THE ALSOP'S

WASHINGTON THE STAFF of another contender for the Democratic Presidential nomination is now riding somewhat gingerly, above the political horizon. The keynote speech of the Mid-West Democratic conference is to be delivered by Sen. Robert Kerr of Oklahoma. It can also be taken as the keynote speech of his own campaign for the nomination, which is likely to turn out to be more moderate than the better-publicized campaign of Sen. Estes Kefauver.

Senator Kerr's effort, if it can be called that as yet, is on the same basis as that of all the other Democratic contenders. He wants President Truman to run again. President Truman wants to run. But the President's decision is to hand on his responsibilities. Senator Kerr would rather clearly like to be considered as a possible heir.

In several ways, moreover, there is a substance in the Kerr embryonic candidacy which the Kefauver candidate lacks. Kerr has, for instance, a fairly solid organizational base in the Mid-West, where he has been a keynote.

KANSAS SUPPORT Iowa State Chairman Jake More and Kansas National Committee Chairman Carl Rice were Kerr supporters. Some time ago, they took the initiative of talking over Kerr's resignation to the Democratic National Chairman Frank McKinney. McKinney approved a project to re-organize the Kansas Democratic primary, presumably after clearing with the White House. This was done on February 5, and if all goes well, the primary there would constitute his candidacy's formal organizational club.

Barring the famous Kerr Bill freezing his own company and other natural gas producers from Federal aid, he has a greater record. He showed both ability and courage when he first ran for the administration in the debate over Gen. MacArthur's retirement. The South-eastern oil industry has made his influence felt to a degree unusual for a rather new member of the club.

REER OS STEVENSON This is a candidacy that cannot be laughed off, moreover, Kerr is a natural speaker, a dynamic speaker, and a man who has a habit of getting what he wants. Starting from a position of great fortune in the oil business. He was a successful Governor of Oklahoma and has made his influence felt to a degree unusual for a rather new member of the club.

As for the average soldier, especially if he is stationed in this area, he will have his possible increase adequately trimmed by the enterprising landlords, merchants and tradespeople of adjacent communities.

Truth catches up with Denials Dewey's flights

DEWEY'S airplane trips—Last December, this writer reported that, whereas Chairman Bill Boyle of the Senate National Committee had only a \$80 bill as a Christmas present from Colonial Airlines, Governor Dewey of New York received 6,000 miles free transportation from the airline company. Dewey promptly issued a denial, claiming both the cost of the transportation and the \$80 bill were technically he was right. However, records of the Civil Aeronautics Authority now reveal the following: On Oct. 4, 7, 12, 26, 29 and 31, 1950, Dewey, while campaigning for Governor, flew around New York State in a special Colonial Airlines plane, running up a total bill of \$4,453.34. This bill remained unpaid until Colonial Airlines got into trouble with the CAA, as a result of which the Justice Department filed a complaint in the Federal court.

I Ain't Interested in Countries Till They're Lost



People's Platform

Letters should be brief, written on one side of the paper. The writer's name must be signed, but may be withheld from publication in the discretion of the Editor. The News reserves the right to condense.

Soldiers Aren't Overpaid

YOUR editorial Monday, "An Appalling Display," is aptly titled. It is an appalling display of the type of logic which flows from your editorial pen. You seem to feel that the personnel of the armed services are going to become embarrassed rich if the House pay increase bill is passed by the Senate and signed by the President.

Most appalling of all is your statement: "The average soldier, with the exception of the man in combat, isn't hurting for a pay increase." To fortify this statement, you quote Representative Taber of New York on the subject of past increases for the military services. He points to what he calls "practically a 300 per cent increase" in pay between 1940 and 1949.

Perhaps this percentage is correct; however, let's be fair. In cold, hard cash the rate of pay for a private in 1949 was \$21.00 per month. Nor did he ever draw that full amount. Government laundry, for example, was always deducted before he received his month's pay. By 1949, our private drew \$75.00 per month (for the first four months; \$80.00 thereafter). He's still paying for his laundry and, like you, he pays a full income tax.

Does this sound a bit different than the way Representative Taber and you prefer to state it? You wouldn't be surprised to find "phantom" editorial, would you? You seem to think that the man in combat is in a financial bind. I doubt that financial difficulties loom that large at the front. A pay raise would be welcome anywhere, but in my combat, I'm quite sure, and prefer replacement to a pay raise. Ask him, incidentally, how would you propose to go about assessing a financial scale to be applied to the risks taken by military personnel? How would you define "combat"?

As for the average soldier, especially if he is stationed in this area, he will have his possible increase adequately trimmed by the enterprising landlords, merchants and tradespeople of adjacent communities. You take a swipe at the increase proposed for "the soldiers in the blue room foxholes of the Pentagon." Weasel words, of course, designed to turn the unthinking mind against any proposed pay increase for the soldier. Act up, do you honestly believe you could hire, in civilian life, a man to supervise the fifteen to eighteen thousand men in a major general's command at the major general's present or possible increased salary?

Any salesman on the road can educate you on the expense of living away from home, and any soldier who attempts to have his family live near the post can tell you something about what that cost. All of us fall into the category of the lucky few who can get housing on the post. Even they are not lighting their cigars with ten dollar bills. You may as well cast yourself to the brutal truth—there is nothing attractive about war; not even the cost. It is a luxury we could all dispense with.

As a taxpayer, I'm in favor of economy, too. A better way to economize would be to have genuine

Congressmen Aim Shotgun At Budget

By MARQUIS CHILDS

WASHINGTON FROM HERE on out in this last session of the 82nd Congress President Truman's budget will be a shining target and it will be hard to miss since it is as big as a circus tent and just about as inclusive.

The trouble is that most of the shooting will be done with slugs, whereas that called for is a sure aim with a high-powered rifle. And a shotgun in the hands of an expert politician can do a great deal of harm even though he may believe his motives to be noble and his intentions to be good. That great economist, Sen. Harry F. Byrd (D-Va) has a staff at work on the budget and he is the most advanced voice to be heard. Byrd believes with the assumption that \$24 billion in foreign economic aid can be eliminated as a lump sum. In the Senator's interpretation sufficient to cover the military orders for military material placed with European plants in the form of military assistance.

This may, in fact, prove true. But it seems a little hard to make there is the Point IV assistance, which means so much to our country in building their economic resources and at the same time meet the threat of Communist domination both from within and without. Burma, where a balance is delicately held, is a prime example.

Urgences such as these confront the conscientious cutter as he cuts through the massive budget. He is hemmed in, on the other hand, by laws that require Congressional appropriation in the fields of social security, public health and so on.

Yet in the face of these curbs Sen. Paul Douglas (D-Ill.), another determined economist, declared that he would not touch a dime out of whatever budget the President might sign up. Repeatedly in the past Douglas has been faced with a hurdle that fences the economist in. This is the stable appropriation of money for the development by the Corps of Engineers.

PATCHWORK TAXES So far, the Federal tax picture is itself badly out of balance. About 90 per cent of all Federal revenue comes from excise and income taxes in this country, whereas as the proportion in Britain and France is about 25 per cent. In other 45 per cent in those two countries comes from purchase tax and a variety of other taxes. And wisdom of fiscal policy in Canada might well have served as a model for the United States.

Private studies recently shown that a sudden and sharp drop in business activity, such as occurred in 1929, could reduce income so drastically as to reduce tax revenues anywhere from \$25 billion to \$50 billion. The size of the national debt, the effect of such a decline can readily be imagined. For conservative economists this is a recurring nightmare which ends in a happy-go-lucky stroll in the park.

What must continuously amaze me is the free world but the slave world is the resilience and capacity of the American economy. The American economy has put in the Congressional Record a year-end review of the National Aeronautics Administration. It pointed out how the power of the country to meet extraordinary demands has always been at hand. It has always had the arm touched off by Korea. Consistently since the end of the war, American industry and other organizations have founded the prophets of gloom and perhaps it will continue to do so.

W. L. SHADDIX

How Are Delegates Chosen? CHARLOTTE THE political situation in our country has become so confused that the better government can be obtained only through greater interest and participation in governmental and political matters.

Though a Democrat by tradition, I wish to do all I can for General Eisenhower. But I find that I am ignorant of how the people of our state select delegates to the nominating convention. I suggest that you would do a real service to the community and state by having a staff writer write a series of articles on the organization through which delegates are chosen. I would like to know the names of political leaders to whom we the voters would give preference and which I find that voters in general know no more about the machinery of government than I do. I would appreciate your paper providing us with a working knowledge of the political organizations within the two parties in our state.

WERRY-GO-ROUND WHEN Los Angeles veteran Democratic leader John B. Gillen explained how things were going in Washington, Congressman Clair Engle (D-Ill.) was a bit of a turmoil. Billy Graham (the evangelist) has half the town darning between heaven and hell, while Congressional investigators are working like mad, separating the milk from the sheep. . . . Just before his speech to Congress, British Prime Minister Winston Churchill took time to sign autographs for his constituents.

"For a man of his years, I'd say he was still quite a blade with the women," remarked House GOP leader Joe Martin of Massachusetts. Alvin Karpis, who was shot and killed in Congress, young Rep. Al Slemmons of New Jersey won the Bronze Star for bravery in World War II. He also won battlefield promotions from enlisted man to major.