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THE ROLE OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLYMAN

PERSISTENT reports from several sources want to make two major changes in the framework of local government: (1) abolish the County Police Dept. and transfer its functions to the Sheriff's office; and (2) abolish the Park & Recreation Commission and place public recreation under the City Council.

Usher M. McIntyre comes out into the open with his proposals, and until there are some signs that others on the legislative delegation feel the same way, there is no point in starting an argument. But it's not too early for this newspaper to say that, on the basis of past experience, it would look with disfavor on both ideas.

The County Police Dept. ought to be abolished as an independent agency, to be sure. But the answer to local law enforcement problems is the consolidation of City and County police forces into one Metropolitan County police with county-wide jurisdiction. It would most definitely be unwise to put law enforcement under the office of the Sheriff, an anachronistic relic of an earlier era.

CONGRESS STILL HOLDS THE HANDLE
LATE last Spring the Citizens Committee for the Hoover Report wisely headed for the storm cellar. It knew the approaching political storm would strain the amicable relationship the Committee had fostered between Republicans and Democrats.

For one thing, he notes that some administrators who strongly resisted governmental changes proposed by the Hoover Commission are leaving Washington. One of the names mentioned, but possibly was thinking about Postmaster General Donaldson, Agriculture Secretary Brannan, Federal Security Administrator Ewing.

FIRST STEP TOWARD CONSOLIDATION
IF THE NEW administration at the County Courthouse doesn't do anything else in the next two years, it has made a mark in history by showing some interest in consolidating city-county government.

Interested individuals and organizations who sought to bestir the County Commissioners and the City Councilmen to act on consolidation found complete apathy on both sides in 1949. Before long, the bulky volumes began to gather dust. A disdainful quip making the rounds of the Courthouse, that "these consolidation reports make good doorstops," ended up in a newspaper column showing them used precisely for that purpose.

HISTORY ON THE DINING CAR
ALAS, how near Asheville came to impropriety with beef from the Land of the Sky upon this narrow escape in a dispatch from Salisbury:

Salisbury steak was a spur-of-the-moment creation of a Southern Railway dining car cook from Salisbury, Chamber of Commerce officials here claim. A diner on an Asheville-bound train ordered steak but there was none aboard. The cook sent word that he could prepare a "Salisbury steak" as a substitute "just the way they fix it in Salisbury, N. C."

Suppose Train 15 had been on time? Or suppose the dining car of culinary renown and the inventive cook had been on Train 15, which traveled from Asheville to Salisbury? In this case, with the larder having provisions with beef from the Land of the Sky, might not the imaginary chef have said he would whip up an "Asheville steak"?

hallmark of Stanhope Linsberry's crack force. Nor are we ready to turn public recreation back to the City Council. The semi-autonomous commission system is not without its flaws, but it does not counterbalance its own advantages, not the least of which is the high brand of non-political public service you get from citizens working for nothing save their interest in good government.

Finally, we would caution McIntyre and the other new members of the legislative delegation against presuming to know too much about what is best for local government. Their primary responsibility lies in the field of statewide legislation affecting the state government. Collaterally, they are the instruments for expressing local opinion on legislation affecting this community only.

CONGRESS STILL HOLDS THE HANDLE (continued)
report. One of the three then appointed by Eisenhower is Nelson Rockefeller, who has studied some of our overseas programs, which the Hoover Commission didn't cover. This like may have some specific, far-ranging proposals ready next month.

The outlook for reform is still dim in at least two fields. We don't expect Postmaster General Summerfield, late of the GOP National Committee, to demand that presidential appointments be removed from politics. And Congress will resist strongly attempts to alter its cozy relationship with the Army Corps of Engineers, which often builds dams and levees according to the whims of pork-barrel politicians rather than conservationists.

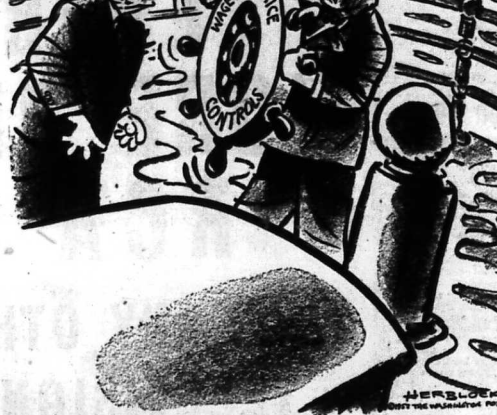
CONGRESS STILL HOLDS THE HANDLE (continued)
The new broom in the executive branch will help. But Congress, in many cases, still holds the handle.

CONSOLIDATION
This week the new board, in response to a report by Commissioner S. S. McNinch, instructed the county attorney to draw up a bill for presentation to the General Assembly authorizing local government officials to consolidate overlapping services if they find it impractical to do so. This would be permissive legislation, and we know of no legal barriers to such a course provided the bill is carefully drawn to conform to known limits on the General Assembly's power to delegate and amend.

CONSOLIDATION (continued)
For anything to come from this new show of interest at the Courthouse, however, the City Council must be brought into the picture. The Commissioners can do no more than set the right example in their own halliwick, but there is nothing to prevent interested Charlotte taxpayers from letting their Councilmen know that they expect some action at City Hall, too.

CONSOLIDATION (continued)
World War the super-patriots interned all German men and women and their English equivalents (as H. L. Mencken demonstrates in The American Language) while even the British royal family changed its name. Hence "sauerkraut" became "liberty cabbage," "German measles" became "liberty measles" and Salisbury picked up the steak. The Salisbury used may have been Salisbury Plain, which is chalky, or Salisbury cathedral, which is in the form of a double cross. Some theorists also suggest that the verboten hamburger was named after Lord Salisbury, who issued the famous "Salisbury Circular" — a mosty diplomatic document, well-rounded.

CONSOLIDATION (continued)
All of this was in 1914-18, or about the period when the Southern's present passenger equipment was only just entering old age. Cane juice is a wonderful thing. The fresh juice is delicious. If you want syrup all you do is boil it down, or if you want candy you just cook the syrup, and if you ever take a notion to get thinking drunk, just leave a can of the fresh juice in the jug for a few weeks and gulp it down.—Omaha (Ga.) News.



The Continuing Battle Education And Freedom

(From an address by Judge Learned Hand, I AM arguing that an education which includes the "humanities" is essential to political wisdom. I especially mean history, but close beside it, and of almost, if not quite, equal importance, are letters, poetry, philosophy, and music. Most of the issues that mankind sets out to settle, it never does settle. They are not alive, because, as I have just tried to say, they are incapable of solution properly applicable to any rate, even if they are not, but that is not always true, the same parties set out to settle, they do agree upon a solution, a point of view, and the dispute fades into the past unsolved. It is perhaps it may be renewed as JUDGE LEARNED HAND

control of their own lives. That community is in peril; it is invaded from within, it is threatened not only in that it faces a test which it may fail to pass. The choice is ours whether, when we hear the pipes of Pan, we shall stampede like a frightened flock, forgetting all those professions on which we have claimed to rest our policy.

GOD knows there is risk in refusing to act till the facts are all in; but there is not greater risk in abandoning the conditions of all rational inquiry. Risk for risk, for myself I had rather take my chance that some traitors will escape detection than spread abroad a spirit of general suspicion and distrust which accepts rumor and gossip in place of undisputed and unimpeached inquiry. I believe that that community is already in process of dissolution where each man begins to eye his neighbor as a possible enemy, where nonconformity with the accepted creed, political as well as religious, is marked with stigmatization, where dissent, without specification or backing, takes the place of evidence, where orthodox choles freedom of dissent where faith in the eventual supremacy of reason has become so timid that we dare not enter our convictions in the open lists to be tried and tested. I do not say that these will suffice; who knows but they may be on a slope which leads down to aboriginal savagery. But of this I am sure: If we are to escape a bitter trial, and by the wisdom, which alone shall we be saved, we who boast ourselves to be the apostles of a faith in the eventual triumph of wisdom.

Quote, Unquote
A New Jersey man attempting suicide cut his throat and then calmly lit a cigarette. That'll be the next thing we'll be seeing in the area.

More encouraging news. A British scientist says the cost of killing by atom bombs will drop to \$2.20 per million by 1964.—Joplin (Mo.) Globe.

In case you think these couldn't be worse, listen to what insurance salesman who wants to point out probabilities.—Ellaville (Ga.) Sun.

Drew Pearson's Merry-Go-Round Adlai Quips He Beat Ike or White House

WASHINGTON
The big White House farewell dinner which President Truman gave for the Cabinet Gov. Adlai Stevenson and the reception line alongside the President, shaking hands with guests.

New Justice Department
MOST important spotlight in the entire Eisenhower administration will be focused on the Justice Department in the reception line alongside the President, shaking hands with guests.

personnel which will run the Justice Department under Eisenhower. The man who will pick the personnel and manage it will be Deputy Attorney General William Rogers, former counsel for the Senate Investigating Committee, now in charge of the Senate subcommittee on the activities of the Communist Party in Washington when the Republicans controlled the Senate in 1948. Taking over direction of the subcommittee from the Democrats, continued him when they rewon control of Congress in 1948.

Truman May Be Destroying Cherished Place In History

By MARQUIS CHILDS

WASHINGTON
As a farwell Washington House, President Truman is apparently trying to prove that all the things his countrymen have told him to do are true. If that is his goal, the President in the past week has made big strides toward its achievement.

The Truman story is a fascinating study of power and what it does to those who exercise it. There was a time, and how far off it now seems, when Harry Truman, the plain man, was the ideal, the President in the past week has made big strides toward its achievement.

Any suggestion that caution might be in order the President knows. This is a matter of going to do it again. Nothing could prevent the vindication of the Truman policies.

WASHINGTON
RETURNING from a tour of inspection across the country, a barrier to thought as well as an ocean barrier between Europe and America. Today, the experience is a day's problem, not even for there is the added contrast between the bleak certainties, the hard, insistent, and unyielding, and the misty uncertainty, the still-fog-bound outlines of the new American administration.

NEWSPAPERS are unfortunately hit like vitamins; it is their nature to go where the trouble is. Because of this occupational disease, previous reports in this series have stressed the enormous difficulties the new President will have to surmount in the West.

It is also wrong, however, to forget the old mountaineer's maxim (it is not a real one) "You can't get it unless you go for it."—If you see a new peak ahead, it means you're halfway up the mountain. That's the way it is in the new America, and her part nations of the Western Alliance at this moment.

At the chief moment of the future, President-elect Eisenhower's (if only he were not all the greater precisely because he is Eisenhower). His campaign oratory may have disturbed certain of our critics who have forgotten what American campaigns are like. But there is still a great deal of work to be done. Dwight Eisenhower, man, in Britain and in Europe. There is also the feeling that a certain amount of energy and more powerful impetus in policy making, a bolder and more imaginative leadership, will be good things.

At the last year, one might almost say that our partner nations are in a state of confusion. The Administration because they were tired, and they are still farther off. At the same time, they are in a state of confusion. They are tired of the acknowledged leader. From the Eisenhower Administration, they now hope for great things. This is the golden moment to strengthen and underwrite a certain amount of our partner nations, the free world as a whole.

Governor Adlai Stevenson before the campaigning had actually begun. The President could have said that in view of the gravity of the situation he would not himself go campaigning. It is now too late for this. The view-point of a distinctly more desirable choice. The Democratic nominee has been chosen for us to carry out his own course without the continual distraction of the White House. He would have been free from the dead weight of the White House. Truman's bitterness after Nov. 4 started his more objective friends. They have never seen him in such. He was ready to blame everyone and anyone for the outcome. There were those who in his private session with President-elect Eisenhower the President would have been delivering in private to most visitors. He who had his own strong views on the Democratic campaign, would never have set through such a lecture and the White House. Truman has taken decisions of paramount importance to the security of the world and he has taken them with courage and honesty. Aid to Greece and Turkey, the Marshall Plan, the NATO system, Korea — all these have only to name them to realize their tremendous significance for the world.

But his current display of petulance in the face of the fearful prospect of another larger war obscures all that. Truman, who is so fond of talking about the reputation of the President, should know, should know this above all men.

Ike, With Problems Aplenty, Has Hopeful Symptoms, Too

By JOSEPH ALSOP

WASHINGTON
are plenty of ugly things in the atmosphere of Europe today, such as increasing anti-Americanism, the loss of the American market, the loss of the hectic fever of the post-war period. No longer is everything bright and sunny. No longer are we day-dreaming of a new world and alarming that it is quite impossible to think about tomorrow's world. The world is settling into a kind of normality. And this feeling that a kind of normality is settling in is not that every familiar landmark is not any longer likely to be blown away by some crisis or other — is a great help in itself.

Along with this general recovery, there are many individually optimistic signs. One of the first acts of a true European union that Jean Monnet is making at Luxembourg. In the world situation, the foundations of the future have been well-laid, and the future is even being built fairly.

DEEP FAITH IN IKE
As the chief moment of the future, President-elect Eisenhower's (if only he were not all the greater precisely because he is Eisenhower). His campaign oratory may have disturbed certain of our critics who have forgotten what American campaigns are like. But there is still a great deal of work to be done. Dwight Eisenhower, man, in Britain and in Europe. There is also the feeling that a certain amount of energy and more powerful impetus in policy making, a bolder and more imaginative leadership, will be good things.

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Upon his operation will partly depend restoration of confidence in government. New Taft-Hartley
THE man who will have a great deal to say about the future of the government is the Taft-Hartley Act — a 51-year-old Pennsylvania, Congressman Sam McClellan, who says: "I am not a politician in my life and I don't tend to start now."