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TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 1952

THE LESSON OF ELIZABETH, N. J.

A FEELING of helpless dread undeniably fills the minds of many citizens of Elizabeth, N. Jersey. Three times in less than two months a passenger-jet plane...

The Congressional inquiry into the two preceding crashes... began yesterday, but has not been postponed because of the most recent crash.

In at least two of the three cases mechanical failure is indicated. Pilot error may or may not have been present. As pilots know, and as relatives of air fatalities sometimes forget in their grief...

Of course, many times more persons are killed each year on highways than in plane, railway and ship accidents.

crash, the larger accidents receive more publicity. This publicity has resulted in keen public awareness of the dangers, and by and large more exacting human and scientific standards have been laid down for these means of transport...

Elizabeth faces one problem which plagues many U. S. cities. Urban areas have grown up around the airport, which thus has little room for expansion to accommodate planes which are safe to land...

Nothing we can say or do will assuage the grief of persons who have lost loved ones at the Newark New Jersey airport. If, however, sentiment aroused by such crashes is channeled into action toward even greater caution, technique and skill, on land and sea and in the air, a similar tragedy may be averted.

CAUGHT BETWEEN TWO BROADSIDES

CAUGHT between the crossfire from Senator Estes Kefauver of Tennessee and Paul Douglas of Illinois, President Truman is having a bad time of it.

Unwound by a concerted White House campaign to block his candidacy, Senator Kefauver hit the President a solid blow last Monday, N. H., the other night when he said:

"The ordinary course of a man up the political ladder in the United States is by successive steps from the local. Ordinarily, he takes an interest in local politics, then in state politics, then in national politics, and he may or may not proceed to the State or national level of office and public life locally, however, the moral tone of his later service... has usually been set. If the community is one in which the racketeer is the man to elect as mayor, then we are fortunate if in later service this man rises above the moral tone of his background."

With a further fling at Mr. Truman's recent press conference wisecrack, Senator Kefauver said "I don't consider it (the N. H. primary) eyewitness at all... I shall be back frequently."

A BANK OF BLOOD IS GOOD INSURANCE

THERE are, it appears, two ways to encourage voluntary blood donation. One way is for our country to sustain many campaigns for or against great national disasters, such as the Texas City explosion a few years ago. The other method is to offer payment which, for several worthwhile reasons, the Red Cross does not do.

Since blood collection and fire negotiations between blood collection have dropped to one-third of the requirement. The local collection center has suffered from this nationwide trend. Donations picked up considerably when two free plasma units in a municipal hospital in Hill County were set before last. During the three-day period 261 pints were collected. On Friday alone the total was 138 pints. Then, the following Monday, donations dropped off to 29 pints. Mecklenburg County meets its January quota, but had pitifully little left over to go to Korea. Mecklenburg residents donated 1,178 pints, 68 more than its 1,110-pint quota, but local hospitals used 173 pints more than their 800-pint allotment of the 1,178 pints, leaving only 205 pints to go overseas.

On the assumption that patriotism and self-interest are the two primary reasons for blood donations—and with the patriotic motif being the more important—the modern way would be to emphasize the value of collected blood to each citizen. Most of the blood collected in the county is used in the county, by those of us who suddenly find ourselves in need of it. The Red Cross does not receive payment for this blood from the hospital—in fact, it pays the cost of transporting it to the hospital. And the hospital gives the patient—pays you—this blood, also free. The only charge to the patient is a small fee of around five dollars for cross-matching and administering the blood.

The blood which you give here at the collection center at 510 East Morehead, is insurance for you. Free insurance against your own death through loss of blood, and insurance for your friends and loved ones.

In addition to maintaining a supply of whole blood for prompt transfusion, it is desirable for a community to have on hand stocks of blood plasma, which unlike whole blood can be stored for long periods of time, and which is administered in cases of disaster such as that at Texas City. It takes about three pints of whole blood to make a pint of blood plasma. So it takes quite a few donations to build up a stock for this community's plasma bank.

Blood donation, then, is a two-fold insurance. It is your personal insurance and it is your community's insurance. It costs nothing. Noody is making a profit on it. We collect for you. Free insurance against your own death through loss of blood, and insurance for your friends and loved ones. This is the fact that it is doing a great job for you.

PITY THE POOR EDITOR

THE EDITOR of the Henryetta (Okla.) Daily Free Lance, undervaluing these days or whether his editorials were as lousy as people seem to think, decided on a little experiment. On the front page, clearly labeled "An Editorial," he printed the first part of the eighth chapter of Matthew, a portion of the Sermon on the Mount. He used a modern version of the Scripture to eliminate words of the King James' version that would stamp it as a passage from the Bible.

This was the "editorial." "Don't run around practicing your charity and love before men in order to be seen by them. For then you'll have no reward from your Heavenly Father when you do something good, don't too your own horn like the hypocrites do in the churches and in the streets just to get you seen by men. When they see that, they've got their reward, already."

Struggle for Control of FPC Dwarfs Doings of Mr. Caudle

By JOSEPH & STEWART ALSOP

WASHINGTON—Few ordinary voters ever heard of the Federal Power Commission, and certainly no one knows Dale E. Doty, its current official from the Interior Department whom the President has just nominated as a Federal Power Commissioner. Yet this nomination represents a vital turning point in a truly intriguing political struggle, waged for many stakes that could impress anyone. The issue in this struggle was, very simply, whether the natural gas and oil people would retain control of this commission which is supposed to regulate them.

Some time ago, the Federal Power Commission was captured for natural gas industry by the President's oil and gas millionaire friend, Senator Robert S. Kerr of Oklahoma, who is now aspiring to the Presidency himself. But the control was jeopardized when Presidential adviser Men C. Wallgren left the commission chairmanship, reportedly to take a fat job with a natural gas pipeline company. Thereafter, the President then chose Thomas Buchanan, the only commissioner who voted for the consumers in the Phillips Petroleum case, to succeed Wallgren in the chairmanship. Hence it was essential for the industry that it get a friend into the vacant commissioner's job, in order to hamstring the dangerous Buchanan.

The roster of the industry's forces in the fight says a lot about the frustration of President Truman's Fair Deal. Senator Kerr, a serious aspirant for the Democratic Presidential nomination, was general in chief on Capitol Hill. Federal Power Commissioner Nelson Lee, who had helped Kerr capture the commission for the natural gas people, was inside man on the commission. And the allies at the White House were Presidential Aides Matt Connelly and Donald Dawson and the man they used to hate, ex-Presidential Advisor Clark Clifford, who is now a lawyer with the Phillips Petroleum Co. among his clients.

Besides these other agents of the industry worked to put over the doty nomination. The doty got the biggest play, Nelson Lee Smith's assistant, William S. Parver. There are several ways to pass, through subterranean channels, that \$500,000 of money to the natural gas industry. The word was passed, through subterranean channels, that \$500,000 of money to the natural gas industry. The word was passed, through subterranean channels, that \$500,000 of money to the natural gas industry.

Candidates For Presidency Hand-Picked By Politicians

By JAMES MARLOW

WASHINGTON—FOR 165 years the voters have been in a long and not very energetic struggle to get a word in edgewise in picking a President. This election year is a good time to see why.

The 55 men who met in Philadelphia in 1787 to make the Constitution of the United States couldn't vote directly for the President. We still don't. We have to vote for electors who vote for the President.

We can't even choose the candidates. The professional politicians get to that. They do it for us as they will once again at the Republican and Democratic national conventions in Chicago this summer.

Those 55 conservatives of 1787 agreed with George Mason of Virginia, who thought, "It were as ungrateful to refer the choice of our chief magistrate to the people as it would be to refer a trial of colour to a blind man."

And the 55 men worked out a plan—in Article 2, section 1, of the Constitution—which is still expected, would let Congress itself pick the President 19 times out of every 44 times. The rest would go to a group of electors who'd vote for a President.

The electors in each state voted for the "favorite sons" as it was known. They would have a time getting a majority in the electoral vote. And when no one did, the House of Representatives would choose the President.

Drew Pearson's Merry-Go-Round Tatt Pushed Around By McCarthy

WASHINGTON—FELLOW Republicans have been whispering behind Bob Taft's back about the way the Senator from Wisconsin has been pushing the Senator from Missouri around. What they say is that McCarthy barked and Taft jumped the other day when he issued his statement supporting McCarthy. For exactly three months, the Wisconsin Senator had been denouncing McCarthy as an endorsement in a wilding had been denouncing McCarthy as an endorsement in a wilding had been denouncing McCarthy as an endorsement in a wilding.



People's Platform

Letters should be brief. The writers name and address must be given, but may be withheld from publication in the discretion of the Editor. Elizabeth II Only Accused CHARLOTTE

ENGLISH as she is wrote—The News headline page 3-A, Feb. 7 issue—"Ascension" according to Webster is "an act of ascending; a rising." Thank be to God, Elizabeth II has not joined her father, but experienced "the act of coming to or reaching a throne" namely "accession."

His Honor's Elephant CHARLOTTE

FOR several months now I have read many Title notes in your paper about the Hon. Victor Shaw and elephants. I think I have some good information for the Mayor.

Against UMT BENNETTSVILLE, S. C.

AFTER reading Robert Ruark's column on Universal Military Training in the Feb. 8th issue of your paper I would like to point out the following facts about the proposed bill.

Quote, Unquote (Rockingham Post-Herald) Truman hopes Taft will run. Taft hopes Truman will run. Many voters hope neither will run.

Johnson Advises President

JOSEPH JOHNSON, the pleasant, barren-tailed ex-Secretary of Defense, had three private talks with the President, all through the White House back door. Two were at his request; the last was requested by Truman.

The President chiefly wanted, Johnson told his friends, was to get the veterans straightened out politically. He figured that Johnson, a big wheel in the American Legion, with his law partner, Don Wilson, now national commander, might be able to swing a lot of the vets back into Democratic ranks.

Johnson was quite unenthusiastic. "I don't think I could very well go to the veterans," he said, "with my reputation for having been fired, and expect to make a successful political appeal."

The President didn't comment on this, but asked his ex-Secretary of Defense what he thought of the political situation. "I don't think Eisenhower will get anywhere," Johnson told friends that he replied. "But I think he has enough strength to block Taft. In the case of that deadlock I think McCarthy will be the nominee, and he is one man. Mr. President, you can't beat."

Anniversary Of McCarthy Charges

IT has now been exactly two years today since McCarthy made his first claim, in a Lincoln's birthday speech at Wheeling, W. Va., that there were 205 Communists in the Wisconsin State Senate.