

THE CHARLOTTE NEWS

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CLEAN-UP PROSPECTS SEEM DIM

WE WOULD LIKE to be hopeful about the prospects for clean-up of corruption in government. But despite the rapidly moving events of the past four days, featuring the exit of Attorney General McGrath, marked improvement seems unlikely before the change of administration in January, if then.

Several factors make substantial improvement improbable. Responsibility for the job once again rests squarely on the sagging shoulders of the Justice Department, a logical place. But the logic diminishes when it is remembered that much of the evidence so far uncovered points to maladministration in that Department. Assuming Attorney General McGrath's confirmation by the Senate and his sincere effort for reform, we have the prospect of a department arising in its own smells while at the same time sniffing around agencies, with less stench. Such a situation does not make for accomplishment or public confidence.

Then, too, the agency now assigned to investigate corruption, the FBI, has no power to check into the Bureau of Internal Revenue, probably the most considerable organization in Washington, because of Secret Service investigative jurisdiction in the BIR. Both the Secret Service and BIR are under the supervision of Treasury Secretary Snyder, who still shows no special inclination to sack his T-men on his tax men.

A point favoring the FBI as the investigating body is the fact that it's about the only government organization which Congress doesn't fear, at least in terms of respect and confidence. But it is doubtful whether its desks, which have been piled high with records of government workers and security risks whom the FBI has been asked to check, contain as many government corruption—a quite different field—which Mr. McGrath blithely suggests they do. Furthermore, any sincere clean-up will require a lot more facilities than the FBI

now has if it is to simultaneously continue its usual work in its accustomed fields.

It is obvious by now that Mr. McGrath is going to get the same kind of Congressional treatment which put the skids to Newbold Morris. Instead of a tanker deal it's the old "Amerasia" case which is being dragged out—it involved classified government documents which were found in the magazine's office during World War II. The case was technically under the direction of Mr. McGrath, then Assistant Attorney General. Some alleged thieves and collaborators got off light. Senator McCarthy has screamed "slithering" again and promises to give details (on the libel-free Senate floor, of course).

And Senator McCarran, angered by the President's removal of his friend Mr. McGrath, is delaying action by his Judiciary Committee on confirmation of Mr. McGrath. As an added impediment he's asked the FBI to make yet another check on Mr. McGrath, who had jurisdiction over the FBI as Assistant Attorney General. Off we go, the Justice Department investigating the Justice Department, the FBI investigating the department head, who is to investigate his subordinates, while Congressmen reach for the dusty files with which to dapple the countenance of this latest white knight who has dared to take depopulation along the same path as his predecessors.

Mr. McGrath is not to be beholden to the President and the Democratic Party as the political campaign intensifies. It's a sorry, sordid mess.

An independent and authoritative body, ruled out for this year, could do a worthwhile continuing job. After the election perhaps it can be established, given adequate powers from Congress, and made attractive to a man of stature. As for new indignities citizens can work for the election of men in Washington who will raise that city's ethical standards, and wish the best to Mr. McGrath, who at least has courage.

A TROJAN HORSE HEADS FOR DIXIE

ONE thing you can usually count on from Southern Democrats is a degree of unity lacking among their northern cousins or the Republicans. The forces behind the banner of Senator Russell have been against Truman, against FEPC, against the Federal Government's expanding power and increasing expenditures. Differences among the rebels have been pretty much drowned out by the chorus of "Nips" raised in opposition to the Fair Deal.

But what's this yonder on the horizon? Looks like a Trojan horse, galloping down from Democratic national campaign headquarters, the rebel army against the Federal Government's expanding power and increasing expenditures. Differences among the rebels have been pretty much drowned out by the chorus of "Nips" raised in opposition to the Fair Deal.

Some of the local political spies have been predicting two seemingly unlikely events. First, the ex-Senator Claude Pepper of Florida, an ultra-liberal, is going to throw weight behind Senator Russell. Secondly, that a leading Carolina newspaper, rather solidly identified with the Administration, is going to go over to the Georgian, although with no great zeal.

The grand strategy supposedly behind all this is of course not the nomination of Senator Russell, except possibly for the No. 2. Rather, the strategy is to bring the Democratic Party, Fair Deal division, hope that by infiltrating the Russell organization they can keep the Southwestern, with the possible exception of Governor Byrnes and a few liekards, in line behind a state

headed by, say, Governor Stevenson, who might be too far to the left for some of the Southern boys.

Maybe this sounds unlikely and far-fetched. But already Mr. Pepper and his supporters are drumming up Senator Russell. The other day an unbelieving Senator Russell called his former colleague to see if it was really so. Why sure, purred Mr. Pepper, we're behind you, Dick. And he might have added, with a knife pointed at Mr. Russell's back.

The incongruity of Claude Pepper's support of Senator Russell strikes home when you recall that the rebel army against the Federal Government's expanding power and increasing expenditures. Differences among the rebels have been pretty much drowned out by the chorus of "Nips" raised in opposition to the Fair Deal.

THE TRUTH WILL OUT

IN A celebrated address last Fall, news commentator Elmer Davis pointed out one great weakness of the American press—the tendency to quote the important Mr. Blank just as Mr. Blank said it even though the reporter might think it so much nonsense. The weakness goes, said Mr. Davis, from two sources: (1) the desire to be "impartial" in the reporting of news, and (2) the lack of time to check the facts and verify the accuracy of what Mr. Blank said.

When a reporter cares, and when he has time, the results are often quite interesting. For instance, the honesty and integrity of Senator Robert Taft have been ballooned to such proportions that his followers assume he speaks nothing but the truth and the whole truth. Robert Taft, columnist for the Philadelphia Evening Bulletin, checked three statements that Taft made repeatedly in the New Hampshire campaign and found all three of them "demonstrably untrue."

The first was the complaint that Taft's opponents "say I can't win. How do they know that I always have won, every time I've run."

Not only did Senator Taft lose two bids for the GOP nomination in 1940 and 1948, but when he ran for re-election to the Ohio State Senate in 1952 he was defeated, winning up fifth in a field of six.

Taft's second statement, says Roth, was

"In 1950 I was elected by the biggest majority ever given a candidate for Senate in Ohio." On the contrary, Taft's margin was only 61,184 votes. Roth writes:

"In 1928 the late Simon Feis, Republican, was elected Senator from Ohio to fill an unexpired term by 67,134 votes. In that same year the late Theodore Burton, also a Republican, was elected for a full term with a 57,247 majority. Six years later, in 1934, Feis ran for re-election. Vice Donaghey, Democrat, beat him by 503,843.

Taft's third misstatement in New Hampshire came at a time when he thought he was winning the primary battle. Devising the statement of an Eisenhower leader that the vote in New Hampshire would not be significant, Taft said:

"This is the primary (Eisenhower supporters) chose as a testing ground. It is the only one they dared enter, here where they had backing of the state organization and the leading Republicans of the state. There were many others they could have entered, without the active consent of their candidate, but they did not."

As a matter of fact, Roth points out, when Taft said that Eisenhower was already entered in primaries in New Jersey, Oregon and Pennsylvania.

A certain amount of misinformation is inevitable in any political campaign, but we hardly expected it from Mr. Integrity.

From The Christian Science Monitor

'MEN OF DISTINCTION'

WE'VE HAD ANOTHER portrait—this one of a youthful group—of liquor and candy makers who have been in the business for years and girls who went for a late-night joy ride. Their car failed to

round a curve, and dove into eighteen feet of water. Four drowned; two were badly injured. The party, of the survivors, told state police the beer and whisky in the car, and all had been drinking.

Star t Of The Easter Egg Hunt



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. The News reserves the right to condense.

Expendable Blood

NEW YORK
Editors, The News:
To get people to donate more blood why not use a slogan? Our fighters in Korea need it badly, and most of us can afford to give it. But we must do something about it now. Maybe this will help arouse.
"Give Your Expendable Blood
To Save An Unexpendable American."
—CHARLES L. CUSUMANO.

Hoyle Has A Phone

DAVIDSON
Editors, The News:
I APPRECIATE your mentioning my name as a candidate for Mecklenburg County Commissioner in Saturday's paper, but I do not understand how you figured I did not have a telephone as your reporter in the Courthouse called me last week over telephone 2881.
I live here at the Calhoun-Hoyle Funeral Home. I have two private telephones. I'd appreciate it if you would correct this error in your next edition. Thank you very much.
—ROBERT T. HOYLE.

Supports Cultural Activities

RICHMOND
Editors, The News:
SEVERAL of my friends of many years sent me Mr. Mack Bell's splendid article of March 11 regarding cultural activities, and their sponsors, in Richmond.
First, I'd like to most emphatically state that we are quite in agreement with him in the credit that he gave to our competitors and friends. In justice to ourselves and to the facts we feel that his statement was not complete.
Thalhimer Brothers, for many years, has been the largest volume store in Richmond. Those figures are on record with the Securities & Exchange Commission, and in addition are published in the Richmond papers.

In reference to contributions—both material and still more important, in leadership, and participation in every worthwhile cultural, civic and sociological activity, please note that William Thalhimer started the business in 1920 as a cultured, civic-minded merchant. In succession followed five sons, two of whom were in the business from shortly after the Civil War. They likewise followed the example set for them.
The writer started in the business in 1903, and was actively engaged in so many of the things

Drew Pearson's Merry-Go-Round

INSIDE story of how the steel wage talks got fouled up would have been a comedy of errors if it had not been so crucial to the country. A better name might be a tragedy of errors.

After it was all over, Eric Johnston, former economic stabilizer, asked Nate Feinsinger, head of the Wage Stabilizer Board, what happened to the co-ordination we were to have.

"What happened to the co-ordination we were to have?" you and I used to confer on the telephone every day, and when you said, "What happened to the co-ordination we were to have?" I would say, "What happened to the co-ordination we were to have?"

The Wage Board chairman replied that he had been in touch with both his chiefs, Mobilizer Wilson and Economic Stabilizer Putnam, in advance of the wage decision. He used to come down and sit with your board and explain why wages couldn't be increased because we couldn't increase prices.

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Mr. Bell referred to in his article that it would take pages to recount. Since 1922 my associate, Mr. Irving May, has been actively engaged in the business with me, and for the past four years, the traditions have been most actively pursued by the fourth generation—William B. Thalhimer Jr. and Charles G. Thalhimer.

—WILLIAM B. THALHIMER JR.

Show Vows 'Em

NORFOLK
I HAD the privilege recently of visiting your city. Mayor Victor Shaw went out of his way to extend the real hospitality for which Charlotte is famous.

His ingratiating personality and keen friendliness made me feel that Charlotte must be fortunate indeed to have Victor Shaw as Mayor.

I had to return home and recount my blessings before I could throw off the spell of Victor Shaw. Congratulations on a fine mayor and a great city.

Will Make The Sacrifice

EPFLAND
Editors, The News:
NOW that President Harry S. Truman has announced that he will not run again why not let us nominate and elect Evangelist Wm. F. (Billy) Graham, President of the United States and elect for one term of four years and subject to recall 100 good Democrats and Republicans to advise him in the business from shortly after the Civil War. They likewise followed the example set for them.

The writer started in the business in 1903, and was actively engaged in so many of the things

Quote, Unquote

Sans Automobiles
(Hargett County News)
Notwithstanding the fact that North Carolina stands near the top in the number of automobile accidents, it is not surprising that it is a citizen of this state with the last line of the envelope reading:

"No Car."

Steel Talks Show Faulty Co-Ordination

announced by the Wage Board, Wilson, Feinsinger and Putnam had met, and Feinsinger had reported it would be a "25-cent package" with no wage benefits hike.

"It's the best I can do," he reported.

"If it's the best you can do, it's the best you can do," was Wilson's philosophic reply.

At that time there was no consultation with Price Stabilizer Ellis Arnall, and apparently no great worry over increasing steel prices.

Next day, Chairman Feinsinger persuaded his Wage Board to reduce the package from 27 to 25 cents, and the first results were announced.

Hide-And-Seek In New York

SIMULTANEOUSLY, Ben Fairless, head of the big S. U. Steel Corp., invited Economic Stabilizer Putnam to meet with the Iron and Steel Institute.

At that time there was no consultation with Price Stabilizer Ellis Arnall, and apparently no great worry over increasing steel prices.

Just Take It Easy: The Foray May Be Yet To Come

By JAMES MARLOW

THERE'S NO REASON why the investigation of Government corruption charges can't get over. Soon after President Truman named him the new Attorney General, Judge James P. McGrath seemed to have doubts there is any corruption and he had have Edgar Hoover look into it.

If the administration was thinking of an investigation of Government corruption, picking the FBI chief for the job would seem like a very smart political move, on paper.

Hoover has the public confidence as the best investigator in the government. And his relations with Congress, where the administration gets most of its support, have been extraordinarily good for years.

Best chance. So good, in fact, that all those now holding top jobs in this administration, Hoover picked the FBI chief for the job would seem like a very smart political move, on paper.

After all, it was the Republicans who put him in his present job. He has the public confidence as the best investigator in the government. And his relations with Congress, where the administration gets most of its support, have been extraordinarily good for years.

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Odds Seem To Favor Truce Fairly Soon In The Future

By JOSEPH & STEWART ALSON

WASHINGTON

THEY MAY be wrong again, but those in the best position to judge the odds on a truce in Korea. They are now quoting odds of about 3 to 1 in favor of a truce in the fairly near future, where until very recently the betting was just the reverse. This tentative opinion derives from broad hints by the Communists that they will be willing to settle the central issue of the exchange of prisoners, provided that some face-saving formula can be found.

Prisoners unwilling to return to China or North Korea, for example might simply be reclassified, under such a formula, as "refugees," rather than "prisoners of war." This sort of thing may seem a pretty shaky foundation for optimism. Yet the possibility of a truce is at least being taken so seriously that it has given rise to a dispute at the highest levels.

This dispute, which concerns what to do if a truce is actually negotiated, has implications extending far beyond Korea.

One view, strongly supported by the State Staff, is that an order of withdrawal should be issued as rapidly as possible after a truce. A token force, a small mission, stocks of arms sufficient to equip a first-rate South Korean army, would be left behind. There would be no attempt to keep in Korea enough American forces actually to stop and hold another Communist attack.

Instead, the Air Force believes that there should be a "sanctions statement"—a warning that American troops would be withdrawn if cause all-out retaliation against the aggressor by Air. Some of the air planners believe that this course is obvious enough.

The Air Force now has committed in Korea between 30 per cent and 40 per cent of its total strength. This commitment cannot be much reduced unless there is also a reduction in ground troops.

Otherwise, American troops in Korea would be left without air support, nakedly exposed to enemy air attack.

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Sanctions Statement

but before the judge can have the job he must be approved by the Senate.

TAKE A LOOK

And before the Senate gets a chance to approve, the Senate's Judiciary Committee must look him over. It so happens the committee is headed by Sen. McCarran, who, although he's a Democrat from Nevada, is no friend of Truman.

McCarran told Hoover, before the committee questions McGrath, give him a report on the magazine case in 1945 when McGrath was an assistant attorney general.

For some time to come the public's attention may be diverted from the problem of the investigation of government corruption by Hoover's silence.

If McGrath finally passes his hands, the FBI never say much about the dirt they uncover since they never prosecute anybody for anything. It's their job.

Their job is to gather information on wrongdoers and then turn it over to the attorney general for whatever action he wants to take. They generally leave it up to him to make the public statements.

Moreover, of course, the Air Force very badly needs elsewhere the air power now tied down in Korea. Air cover for the six American divisions in Europe is almost militarily inadequate. So is fighter protection for the new strategic bases being built in Africa and elsewhere. And the air defense of the continental United States itself is lamentably weak.

ARMY CONTRAST

The Army, by contrast, favors a very rapid withdrawal from Korea. Air cover for the six American divisions in Europe is almost militarily inadequate. So is fighter protection for the new strategic bases being built in Africa and elsewhere. And the air defense of the continental United States itself is lamentably weak.

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