THE CHARLOTTE NEWS

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ALL VETS HAVE A STAKE IN THESE BILLS

THIS WEEK the House Veterans' Affairs Committee finally opened hearings on some of the bills that seek reorganization of the Veterans Administration.

One of the bills (S. 1140) would create a central hospital and medical service in a new Department of Health. Two of them (H. R. 3316 and H. R. 3317) seek administrative reorganization of the VA. A fourth (S. 1135) would strengthen the merit system in Federal service.

American Legion members are being urged to ask Congressmen to oppose these bills. Members of the Independent Veterans Committee for the Hoover Report are being urged to ask Congressmen to support them.

We hope Carolina veterans urge their views upon Congressmen, particularly Rep. Hamilton C. Jones of this district, a member of the Veterans' Affairs Committee, and its chairman, John E. Rankin of Mississippi. We hope they urge favorable action, for these reasons:

The Government now runs a $2 billion-a-year medical and hospital business, including the Army, Navy, Air Force, Public Health Service, Veterans Administration and about 30 lesser agencies. S. 1140 would consolidate them (excluding prison hospitals) in a new Department of Health.

Under this bill no veteran admission policy or priority would be changed. The VA would continue to certify the eligibility of veterans for hospitalization. A patient—serviceman, ex-serviceman or civilian Federal employee—would be entitled to treatment at any of them, regardless of his branch of service.

Under the present plan an army man, for example, is sent hundreds of miles to an army hospital, although a navy or other government hospital in his town, with vacant beds, could accommodate him. Skilled medical men twiddle their thumbs in a near-vacant hospital while, across town, other doctors and technicians in another service are overworked.

Furthermore, if Federal medical services were centralized in accordance with S. 1140, veterans could be treated close to home, instead of going hundreds of miles to a VA hospital.

Administration-wise, as most veterans well know, the VA is a mess. Mistakes and delay, in schooling and insurance matters particularly, are the rule. G. I. students were overpaid millions of dollars. Comptroller General Lindsay Warren's General Accounting Office found that two-thirds of the schools giving G. I. training were overpaid.

A reason for this is an administrative setup which overburdens the VA's top man and requires underlings to get Washington authority on trivial matters. Veterans Administrator Carl Gray now has seventeen key units in Washington and 77 VA field office heads reporting directly to him.

H. R. 3316, now under consideration, would establish direct, clearly defined control over all VA operations, with a director over each of the four main VA functions. The Administrator would be relieved of trivia. Each manager of a hospital or field office would be responsible for the workers in his installation.

The $41 billion veterans' life insurance program is now mingled among other VA functions. H. R. 3317 would set up an insurance division as a government corporation within the VA, and initiate modern cost-accounting methods for its operation. Congressional appropriations for insurance administration would then be direct and segregated, permitting the public and Congress to better evaluate the efficiency of the insurance program.

The fourth bill affecting veterans is S. 1135, which would permit each government agency to hire its own staff, under Civil Service regulation, instead of having the Civil Service Commission do the hiring. Some veteran organization spokesmen say this bill will destroy veteran preference rights in government employment. We can't see how this could be. Under the bill, all applicants would be graded numerically, on the basis of tests, from 100 down. Any veteran with a passing grade would get an extra five points. A disabled veteran would get ten added points. As a further protection for the veteran, the bill provides that if a hiring officer, in choosing from a list of eligible applicants, passes over a veteran to choose a non-veteran, he would be compelled to justify his action in writing to the Civil Service Commission.

That doesn't look to us like discrimination against the veteran. Neither do the provisions of the other three bills. We're tired of the distortions of these Hoover Commission proposals by some veteran organizations. We compliment the members of those organizations who have not swallowed this line, and urge them to join members of the Independent Veterans Committee in support of these bills to revamp the VA.

VOTE TWICE FOR JUDGE BOBBITT

ONE PART of the State Democratic primary ballot handed you tomorrow will look like the picture in the adjacent column.

It lists the candidates for the N. C. Supreme Court.

It looks simple, but there's a catch to it.

To vote for your candidate, you must vote twice.

You vote once for the short term—the unexpired portion of the term to which Justice Itimous Valentine was appointed by Governor Scott. That is from November, 1952, to Jan. 1, 1953.

You vote again for the long term—eight years—beginning on Jan. 1, 1953.

If you forget to mark your ballot the second time, you may put your man on the bench for two months only. That would be bad.

So read that ballot closely. Mark it twice.

And we hope you mark it just like we've marked ours, for William H. Bobbitt.

He deserves your support, and he merits an overwhelming majority in Mecklenburg and surrounding counties.

Let's make it 100% for Bobbitt.

FOR ASSOCIATE JUSTICE OF SUPREME COURT
(SHORT TERM)
(Vote for One)

- ☐ R. HUNT PARKER
- ☒ WILLIAM H. BOBBITT
- ☐ ITIMOUS T. VALENTINE
- ☐ OSCAR O. EFIRD

FOR ASSOCIATE JUSTICE OF SUPREME COURT
(REGULAR TERM)
(Vote for One)

- ☐ R. HUNT PARKER
- ☒ WILLIAM H. BOBBITT
- ☐ ITIMOUS T. VALENTINE
- ☐ OSCAR O. EFIRD
- ☐ ALLEN H. GWYN
- ☐ F. DONALD PHILLIPS

AND ALL BECAUSE OF A SPECTER

IN TRYING to justify its opposition to one clause of a new Social Security law, the American Medical Association just makes itself look sillier.

The AMA opposed as "socialized medicine" the section which dealt with persons covered by Social Security who became permanently and totally disabled.

It provided that the Federal Security Administrator should (a) determine what constitutes permanent and total disability, (b) establish the types of proof necessary to establish permanent and total disability; (c) provide by regulation when and where physical examinations should be taken; (d) be authorized to prescribe the examining physician or agency (including Federal installations); (e) establish the fees; (f) be authorized to pay travel expenses and subsistence incident to the taking of such physical examinations, and (g) have power to curtail Old Age and Survivors' Insurance benefits because of non-compliance with regulations of this section.

The AMA did not object to the rest of the bill, which would have increased benefits to Social Security recipients without increasing premium payments. It saw in Section 3 the specter of the Government putting its "foot in the door of socialized medicine".

Like Chicken Little, who thought the sky had fallen, the AMA is just imagining things. Uncle Sam is the insurer in the Social Security program. In determining whether a covered employee is permanently and totally disabled, the Federal Government has a responsibility to other covered employees to set the rules and regulations, to determine what constitutes disability. It must have that responsibility if fraud is to be avoided.

The AMA did not suggest an alternate plan. It did not suggest one because there is no logical alternative. It merely whipped out the overworked "socialized medicine" slogan to frighten enough Representatives into defeating a worthwhile measure. For that it will eventually have to answer to disabled Americans who, deprived of their livelihood, and unable to keep up premium payments, will lose their Social Security benefits in their old age.

The newspaper has one unfailing resource in its fight against political censorship, and that is the average politician's inability to keep his mouth shut.—*Dallas Morning News.*

On the current scale of Washington epithets, you're just mildly annoyed when you call a man a thief and a liar.—*Cincinnati Enquirer.*

The only difference between stumbling blocks and stepping stones is the way you use them.—*Hamilton County (Tenn.) Herald.*

Mr. Truman sent Premier Stalin an ultimatum that was not an ultimatum to stave off a war that was not a war.—*Little Rock Arkansas Gazette.*

Despite The Growing Danger, We're Still Muddling Along

By MARQUIS CHILDS

WASHINGTON

A COMMON rule of conduct dictates that the more one's position is endangered, the more rapidly one moves to protect that position. So far as the United States is concerned, for the past six to 12 months an almost-opposite course has been followed.

That is the only conclusion that can be reached if one looks candidly at the progress of rearmament on the one hand and the course of diplomacy on the other hand. From the Japanese peace settlement last September through the breakdown of the Korean truce talks to the signing of the West German accord just now, each step has meant an added hazard. Each step has meant one more advance toward the line that Soviet Russia has proclaimed with increasing anger and vehemence to be inviolable.

Each one of the steps taken in the past year and a half can be shown to be essential to the pattern of security for the free nations. They represent in many respects a great achievement, a diplomatic-political advance of far-reaching consequences.

But it was also essential that these steps be accompanied by a resolute carrying through of each stage of physical preparation for readiness for danger. The posture of defense should have been progressively strengthened. Unity and resolution should have been firmer and more apparent.

Yet, certainly in 1952, these things have not happened. The confusion and the conflict, the slackness and the indifference have grown greater. At times America must seem like a sleepwalker moving in a dream state through an uncharted mine field.

As to blame for the falling off of recent months, there is plenty to go around. To explain it merely by "politics" is probably too simple and too easy.

From the dark days of gloom and fear in December of 1950 the wheel has made almost a full turn. At that time many were demanding "all-out" preparedness. W. Stuart Symington, then chairman of the National Security Resources Board, and others were urging that the National Guard divisions be called up immediately and that drastic controls be applied to the civilian economy.

Other counsel prevailed. And one must say in the light of subsequent events that, at least insofar as putting large numbers of men on active duty, it was wiser counsel. They could not have been utilized in Korea and the very fact that they were in uniform with no immediate purpose might have precipitated a push to war. Some urging the "all-out" course may have thought it desirable to have a showdown then and there.

Instead it was decided to build a military base that could be readily expanded from two to three times in the event of full-scale war. This was frank recognition of a state of not-peace-not-war. And it is this in-between status that is most difficult for a democracy to sustain.

OPPOSITION GROWS

The voices of opposition have grown louder as the danger has seemed to diminish. Robert A. Taft has suggested a cut in defense expenditures up to $20 billions. At the same time he has advocated such adventuresome moves as sending Chiang Kai-shek's National troops back to the mainland of China with American air and naval support. General Douglas MacArthur has said angrily that there is no danger from the outside.

The Administration muddle on information further confuses the picture. A few days after General Ridgway's solemn testimony on the air strength of the Communists in the Far East, a defense official, John D. Small of the Munitions Board, gave a Senate committee just the opposite view. While Small was quickly corrected by others, it was a contribution to the general impression of uncertainty and doubt.

The umbrella that comfortably shelters the current confusion consists of a broad assumption. That is that Soviet Russia does not want a war and, therefore, will not make any move that might make war inevitable. An umbrella, as the tragedy of the Munich appeasement in 1938 should have taught us, is not a very stout protection against the realities of war and conquest.

'They're Out Telling The Country How They Stand'

High Taxes On Luxuries Take The Fun Out Of Life

By ROBERT C. RUARK

NEW YORK

PERSONALLY, I never touch the stuff, because melted gold is cheaper this day, and besides it makes you feel so bad as a result of having spent so much. Like somebody said, you get sick and tired of getting up sick and tired and busted, to boot.

I am referring to a plaintive bulletin from the government, which says that the increased taxes on happy-juice have cut the revenue from liquor sales instead of increasing it. The government figured that when they drove up the tax on spirits to $10.50 a gallon, consumption would drop, but the added revenue would make up for the per capita reduction in tippling.

It hasn't. Indications from the Bureau of Internal Revenue are that they are going to be about $150 million short of their estimated income, and 150 million bucks buys a lot of beer. Beer is what it's bought, too—beer, wine, canned heat, and bootleg whisky, instead of governmentally sanctioned grog.

BOOTLEGGING BOOMS

The current report, semi-official, is that bootlegging is bigger and better business today than it was when every backyard housed a still and the Feds were shooting up innocent bystanders and blindness accompanied every third bottoms-up. Fine, I say, just fine. Look at it and laugh, suckers, at what happens when the governmental penchant for foundering the free horse reaches infinity.

Some months back, when the new tilt on whisky went into effect, we wrote a bitter little piece about putting yourself out of business if you carry the tax on luxuries too far. It seemed to me to keynote the whole wrong with the way we run our show out of Washington. Keep on penalizing it, no matter what it is, and people will eventually either stop using it, or they will find a substitute for it, or a way to duck it.

We have adopted an arbitrary approach to frivolities, which is to say that the government idea is that anything which cannot be construed as an absolute necessity is per se wrong, and should be slugged into submission, taxwise.

I argue back that the frivolities are in many ways the real necessities of sweating your way through this misdirected rat maze of bureaucratic strife, and that there are times when a slug of hooch or a cigarette or a pretty play toy is more important than the grim business of rent and bread. Man can't live entirely on what is expected of him, according to the book. He needs a little lift to keep from going nuts, as a woman occasionally refrains from killing her husband merely by buying a new hat.

Whisky must be important to the masses, because they drink so much of it, and talk so much about it. Smoking must be important, or so many people wouldn't smoke. A new handbag or a gaudy geegaw must be important, or the stores would fold fast due to lack of female trade. Entertainment must be important, or people wouldn't hold still for that 20 per cent amusement tax.

SOME AMUSEMENT NEEDED

What is so immoral about amusement that it must be taxed out of existence by a bunch of wastrels and scoundrels and thieves and fuzzy-headed global architects who couldn't plot their way out of a closet? We have to have some available amusement to put up with the stupidities of the masters of destiny, and they are taxing the fun things right out of reach of the average guy.

I have seen the penalization of luxury work in a great many countries of the world, and it has never accomplished anything except to create a great sullenness on part of the population, and foster greater political emergencies. And eventually destroy the revenue the greedy were grasping at.

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.

Pick The Right Man

CHARLOTTE

Editors, The News:

THIS coming Saturday, May 31, is again election day, and the voters of Charlotte and Mecklenburg County owe it to themselves and families to vote their honest and sincere convictions. . .

The time has come when we should elect only those men whom we believe will represent all the people in an honest, fair and impartial manner. And the only way we can achieve this purpose is to get out the vote.

Let us all go to our respective polls on election day, and before we mark our ballots, let us consider very carefully the kind of men we are selecting to serve us during the next two years.

This is a very important issue in these critical times and may we meet it with a willing and conscientious spirit, and may God help us to pick the right men.

— A. L. BAILEY

The Man For The Job

GASTONIA

Editors, The News:

ANY boy who was raised on a farm and also worked in a general store, and later worked as a laborer in a cotton mill and furniture factory, then worked his way through one of our leading state colleges, is to be admired by everyone.

And as a man, he has accomplished much. A successful attorney-at-law, he was appointed to the Superior Court Bench by Gov. Clyde R. Hoey and made such an outstanding record that Gov. Broughton reappointed him twice. He resigned, after ten years as judge, to resume his law practice. But our former Gov. Gregg Cherry appointed him Chairman of the State Board of Elections, and again he served his state fairly and honestly.

This man always found time to teach a young men's Bible Class each Sunday for 31 years in his own home town. As a veteran of World War I, with the famed 81st "Wildcat" Division, he has continually given his time and attention to all matters pertaining to the service man.

This man, at 57 years of age, has an earnest desire to again serve the people of his native state, and with his vast experience in past years I feel confident that he is sincere when he pledges himself to "Put the poeple first." I feel confident that the people of our state will go to their respective voting places and cas a ballot for Hubert E. Olive for Governor of North Carolina.

MURRAY M. GRIER

A Plug For Mr. Goodman

CHARLOTTE

Editors, The News:

THE parents of cerebral palsied children in Mecklenburg County are indebted to Arthur Goodman, because he has tried to relieve these people regardless of race, creed, or color.

Since 1946 he has given his time in organizing and helping to direct the local Spastic Hospital; he also helped promote the Humane Society, and has served as past State Commander of Disabled Veterans of World War.

In 1945 he served in the House of Representatives and served very diligently, and will again if each of us will vote for him as he is the type of man who is interested in the people and the welfare of this country.

Many other parents who pioneered the Spastic work feel that Mr. Goodman is a man of integrity, and has proved his ability; he is interested in all movements for the benefit of Mecklenburg County and the State of North Carolina.

—MRS. H. P. McALLISTER.

Liberty Must Be Aggressive

BENA, Va.

Editors, The News:

THERE are four courses open to the U. S. in foreign policy, (1) world organization which includes the Russian dictatorship, (2) complete isolation, (3) alliance of democratic nations, and (4) a federal union of the free democratic people of the world, beginning with the people of the North Atlantic community.

I wish to submit that the latter is our only practical solution.

The Communist and democratic ideologies are incompatible and irreconcilable, and between them there is no possible area of agreement. As for isolation, the idea of drawing back into our narrow shell, abandoning the rest of the world to slavery and attempting to make ourselves economically sufficient while we enjoy our freedom would prove to be a fatal delusion.

An alliance with other free sovereign nations can never succeed in the achievement of peace for the simple reason that the final arbiter of sovereign nations is war. In an alliance of nations the unit is a nation and that nation has an army and a navy. But in a union of peoples, the unit is the individual.

Any discussion of the subject of foreign policy seems to be bedeviled by the word "sovereignty." An understanding of this word should clarify the situation. In a dictatorship, sovereignty resides in the government. In a democracy, sovereignty resides in the people.

Senator Taft and many other very honorable people seem to fear the idea of a further extension of the principle of federal union, afraid that we would lose our sovereignty. Exactly the opposite is true. A union with the other free peoples of the world would increase, not diminish, our sovereignty.

Liberty is, by its very nature, aggressive. It is aggressive against slavery. Slavery in any part of the world is a threat to liberty and a challenge to its existence. To survive, liberty must expand. It cannot be hoarded and enjoyed selfishly.

If we continue to be afraid of a union with the other free people of the world, hold ourselves aloof and encourage the idea that sovereignty resides in the government in Washington, it will not be long before we shall lose what freedom we have and turn this country into a dictatorship.

On the other hand, if we can break through our shell of narrow-minded isolationism and suspicion and form a federal union with the people of the free democracies of the Atlantic community it would provide, I believe, ". . . under God . . . a new birth of freedom" which the free world so desperately needs.

—E. S. EDWARDS.

Drew Pearson's Merry-Go-Round

Voters Stirring Against Political Bosses

WASHINGTON

THE publishers of Frontier Magazine, Gifford Phillips and Ludlow Flower, who are old Denver friends of Secretary of Agriculture Brannan, dropped in on him the other day, began to talk about politics. They were for Kefauver, found him bitter against Kefauver.

"When Kefauver remained in the New Hampshire primary against the President, it was an insult," remarked the Secretary of Agriculture with heat.

What Brannan and various top politicos of both parties don't seem to realize is that a large part of the American public doesn't care whether the present leaders are "insulted" or not. They are rebellious toward those in power, no matter what the party, and definitely in a nose-thumbing mood.

This applies not only to those in Washington, but to party bosses in states and cities. It applied to Democratic leaders who were ousted in the New Hampshire primary and to Republican bosses who were ousted last November after their 70-year rule over Philadelphia.

This resentment against party bosses accounts for much of the popular sentiment for Eisenhower and Kefauver. It's a new political ferment, a healthy desire on the part of people not hitherto in politics, to get into politics. Not only are they determined to get out and vote, but they're determined that there shall be no smoke-filled-room nominations at either convention.

The bosses may not like this, but it's a fact. And here are some of the battles stirred up by this new political ferment, showing it's a fact:

Eisenhower and the South — While the bald-faced freeze-out of Eisenhower delegates in Texas has attracted most of the headlines, there have been just as brazen freeze-outs in other states. In Charleston, S. C., Hump Keating and Elizabeth Curry, two Old Guard Republicans, saw they were outnumbered by Eisenhower supporters at a meeting called at the Murray Vocational School, so they jumped into Keating's car, held their own meeting, and re-elected themselves to represent the precinct at the state convention.

At West Baton Rouge, La., Robert Butler, precinct chairman, found himself the only Taft man, among a crowd of Eisenhower supporters. So he called the meeting to order, nominated himself a delegate, seconded the nomination, closed the meeting, waved good-bye to other Republicans, and walked out.

At New Orleans, Taft supporters, finding themselves outnumbered, held a private meeting on the sidewalk and elected their own delegates.

Ferment in California — There may be a complete turnover of Democratic leaders as a result of the Kefauver battle in California. Some time ago a gilt-edge list of top Democrats were picked as delegates for Truman. Kefauver, who came in late, could get no celebrities to support him. As a result, he fell back on youngsters and relative nonentities with plenty of enthusiasm but little political experience.

Later, when the President took himself out of the race, he pulled the rug from under both his own degelates and Democratic Party bosses. Left high and dry, they persuaded able Attorney General Pat Brown to become the sacrificial stalking horse.

Actually Pat Brown has no more desire to become President than Shirley Temple, and the real fact is that Ed Pauley, the big oilman, and George Luckey, the colorful cattleman, are are using him in a desperate attempt to try to retain control of the Democratic machinery and control California's big bloc of votes at Chicago.

Ohio Revolt — What California old-line Democrats watched with anxiety was the amazing primary in Ohio, where Kefauver's little-known delegates swept the state, defeating such well-known names as Jack Kroll, head of CIO-PAC, Phil Hanna, a power in the A.F.L., and even Al Horstman, Democratic national committeeman.

In Ohio, the party bosses had exerted pressure to keep Kefauver delegates off the ticket. This only added fuel to the resentment of the voters, and now some of Ohio's old-line leaders find themselves out in the cold with a bunch of brash Kefauver youngsters part way in the saddle.

Florida Surprise — Old-line leaders also took a moral licking in the Florida primary, where the Governor, the Senators and every member of Congress campaigned vigorously for Senator Russell. Virtually every sheriff in the state was mobilized by Gov. Fuller Warren to defeat Kefauver.

And while Kefauver went under by a narrow margin, a group of new leaders in southern and central Florida stirred up tremendous political enthusiasm, now have the bit in their teeth against the Old Guard.