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'PUBLIC BUSINESS IS THE PUBLIC'S BUSINESS'

SPONSORS of the Freedom of Information Conference to be held in Raleigh Jan. 14 turned a happy phrase when they said that the democratic processes can be secured by making "public business the public's business."

The phrase says a great deal in very few words. Public business is the public's business, and the public officials elected or appointed to transact it owe full information about their actions to the public.

At times, public officials, engrossed in the public problems before them, forget that they are servants of the people, not masters. Sometimes they unwittingly or deliberately adopt "the public be damned" attitude.

Though the January conference is not the direct result of the passage of a "freedom law" by the 83rd General Assembly, the implications of that legislative action loom in the background.

The conference will discuss two subjects: 1. Relations between the judiciary and the public information media.

2. Relations between law enforcement agencies and public information media.

Each subject will be discussed by a panel of 10 persons who can speak with authority in the field.

In addition, there will be a keynote address by W. C. Williams, United States Attorney, and a luncheon address by J. Russell Wiggins, managing editor of the WASHINGTON POST and the energetic chairman of the Freedom of Information Committee of the American Society of Newspaper Editors.

Press and radio, the two primary information media, are cooperating in this effort to examine objectively the problems of gathering and dispensing public information about the courts and law enforcement agencies.

The Freedom of Information Conference holds great promise of substantially improving the flow of public knowledge in this state. It merits the closest attention of all citizens who believe, with Gov. John S. Battle of Virginia, that:

"Our fundamental freedoms are meaningless unless we obtain knowledge. Freedom of thought, of expression, of the press, together with freedom of assembly and of petition, are the life and each of these are predicated upon the individual's opportunity to obtain and evaluate information."

'SARDIS ROAD' HAS TOO MANY NAMES

TOMORROW the City Planning Board and other city officials will talk over the proposed routing and widening of old Sardis Road. We hope they find merit in the proposal, and funds with which to make the changes.

Increasingly heavy since the build-up of the Cotswold and widening of the road. And more importantly, the proposed re-routing would eliminate three hard and dangerous curves just beyond the intersection of Crescent and Laurel Avenues.

There is another angle to the Sardis Road development that warrants some attention from the citizens of this city. It is that five different sections of the same route have five different names, which are four or two too many.

From its point of origin in Wesley Heights through the middle section and over to Presbyterian Hospital the name is 4th St. The road veers slightly to the right and becomes Crescent Avenue. After proceeding a few blocks it becomes Crescent Avenue extension and darts abruptly to the left, then left again, within the portion which may be rerouted.

After crossing a narrow bridge it finally becomes Sardis Road. This appellation continues beyond the city limits as far as the intersection with Sharon-Amity Road. Then the name becomes Randolph Road. After a mile or two it runs into New Sardis Road.

How much simpler it would be, to new

residents as well as to oldtimers who have trouble keeping abreast of East Mecklenburg's rapidly changing scene.

Of course some persons may object to a change of address. Address changes, however, are among the most objectionable concomitants of a rapidly expanding urban community, as this one is. Surely the city fathers can come up with acceptable recommendations that will simplify the street name situation.

When the first session convened, the political lion stood at 48 but one example of the community's botched-up street-naming system points up the need for more civic planning, and for more cooperation between organization of the city and county planning boards.

Two minor committees, District of Columbia and Public Works, were given some number of Democrats and a few Republicans. Morse was made the "odd" member of the committee.

Committee chairmen are elected by the entire Senate and the Senate adopts a resolution amending its rules on this formula. It shuffled the committee structure, upping the total number of assignments from 300 to 289.

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At first glance at these figures we were inclined to say: Alah, that's what happens when the kids sit for hours with eyes glued to the TV set, watching other experts and play instead of romping around themselves.

Perhaps this preoccupation with spe-

cialized sports, which afflicts parents too, contributes to American's shortsightedness. They sum it up this way:

"The major difference between these two groups is the fact that the European groups do not have the benefit of a highly trained and highly motivated staff of school buses, elevators, or any other labor-saving devices. . . . Their recreation is largely based on the active use of their own bodies."

In other words, when Junior is waiting for the school bus in the United States, Pierre and Hans across the Atlantic are heading to school, or riding their bikes. Probably the European youngsters are in better shape than Americans are, for the same reasons the doctors mentioned.

Physical soundness is one of the attendant ills of urban existence and push-button convenience. The best antidote we know is this: Get out of that easy chair, take the family for a walk instead of a drive, and get busy on those leaves and shrubs out in the yard.

SHUN THE CAR—TAKE THE FAMILY WALKING

PERHAPS you think that son of yours is a hardy, athletic type, a future All-American. Maybe he can hold his own with other American lads. But in competition with European youngsters, he might come out a poor second.

That is the gist of a disturbing survey report recently in THE JOURNAL OF THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION FOR HEALTH & RECREATION.

Two American doctors conducted muscular fitness tests among thousands of American and European youths. The children of similar age came from urban and suburban communities.

The Americans failed 78.3 per cent of the tests. The Europeans failed only 8.3 per cent of them.

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GOP Chairmanships Jeopardized

Burke Presents Poser To Senate

BY CONGRESSIONAL QUARTERS WASHINGTON SEN. THOMAS A. BURKE (D-Ohio), replacement for the late Sen. Robert A. Taft (R), presents the Senate with his thorniest organizational problem since adoption of the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1946.

The problem: How shall the Republicans "majority" continue in control of the Senate's committees yet give Democrat Burke two committee posts, and keep within the spirit and letter of the Reorganization Act and an amendment made to it at the beginning of this Congress?

When the first session convened, the political lion stood at 48 but one independent, Wayne Morse (Or.). At that time the GOP offered the Senate's two committee posts so as to retain a majority of one vote on 13 of the 15 standing committees.

Two minor committees, District of Columbia and Public Works, were given some number of Democrats and a few Republicans. Morse was made the "odd" member of the committee.

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Drew Pearson's Merry-Go-Round

AMIABLE T. C. Adams Andrews, the nation's tax chief, has been sharply criticized in Capitol Hill for improperly in handling Senator McCarthy's case.

At the very same time that three revenue agents were investigating McCarthy's tax returns, Andrews was entertaining him royally at Richmond and later introduced him to a banquet audience "one of the great Americans of our age."

One senator who had probed McCarthy's tax returns returned to the Senate Committee even took the trouble to warn Andrews in advance that it would be improper for him to act as host to McCarthy at the same time the Internal Revenue Bureau was investigating him. However, Andrews refused the warning. This occurred after McCarthy had sought to embarrass Andrews' chief in the White House.

Andrews Apparently Buttering Up McCarthy

committee, which decides how much money will be allotted to the Internal Revenue Bureau.

SECRETARY OF STATE Dulles stated last week that the peoples under Soviet domination are so disoriented "it would be reckless" for the Russians to engage in general war.

All the information I've been able to obtain confirms this. Red propaganda sources along the Iron Curtain are all but hysterical.

Therefore, now is the time to begin the campaign promised by both General Eisenhower and Mr. Dulles during their election speeches of getting peace and friendship propaganda behind the Iron Curtain.

One of the simplest ways of doing this is by sending messages across the Iron Curtain by means of balloons. A very successful experiment on this end was conducted by C. D. Jackson, now on the White House staff, together with John W. Burns, also on the White House staff, and this writer, in the summer of 1951.

Working from West Germany within a 500-mile radius of the Iron Curtain, we launched balloons carrying 11,000,000 leaflets to the people of Czechoslovakia. By sending the people of Czechoslovakia

to get the balloons to spill their leaflet load over the bigger Czech cities just as people were going to work.

The Iron Curtain was so electrifying that Premier Zapevok was forced to deliver a speech on the floor of parliament in the middle of the night to his carriers. But the Czech people, who knew better, continued to go for the leaflets in a big way, even taking them secretly on Communist bulletin boards.

The present winter is going to be rough on people behind the Iron Curtain. It is not plentiful. Clothing has never been plentiful. This would be the perfect period for the friendly messenger to be attached to anything—from pins and needles to tea and biscuits.

Revolt Against Johnson

DEMOCRAT Senators returning to Washington for the hot congressional session find that the Republican area is the only people troubled with rumblings of revolt. There are also rumblings against the young congressman, this is almost a young congressman, this is almost a young congressman, this is almost a young congressman.

For the first time, Lyndon has lost the support of the young Republican leader, Lyndon Johnson of Texas. For the first time, Lyndon has lost the support of the young Republican leader, Lyndon Johnson of Texas.

To those who used to watch Lyndon in Sam Rayburn's office on the days when he was a young congressman, this is almost unbelievable. The young congressman from Texas is now the elder congressman from Texas as if

Experts Feel 'In Their Bones' Atomic War Will Be Averted

By STEWART ALSOP

WASHINGTON IN this hopeful season, it may be worth recalling an oddly hopeful remark which Sir Winston Churchill made some time ago. Over a post-war period, Churchill fell to comparing the years before the second World War, and the years since.

He pointed out how much the two periods have had in common. In both cases, an aggressive dictatorship, armed to the teeth, having absorbed much territory and many people, has threatened the divided and unready democracies, amid mounting fear and tension.

Yet Churchill remarked so far as he was concerned there was one striking difference between the two periods. Almost as soon as Hitler came to power, Churchill said, he KNEW there was going to be a terrible war. "I felt it in my bones. Yet somehow," Churchill continued thoughtfully, and almost in a tone of surprise, "I do not feel it in my bones now."

A GENERAL OPINION? Sometimes, Churchill anecdote seems worth recalling now, not only because it is always nice to have something to quote in the Christmas season, but for another reason as well. For Churchill's remark suggests a feeling of a sort of general movement of informed and responsible opinion, which has been going on in Washington and elsewhere in recent months. This movement of opinion has no sure basis in fact, but it is being precisely explained or analyzed or defended. It does not lend itself to headlines. Yet it is a genuine news of genuine importance.

That it amounts to is simply this. More and more informed and responsible officials and others are coming to have a "feeling in their bones" that somehow, against all the rules, the world is going to avoid the ultimate agony of atomic war.

This feeling in the bones, it should be hastily said, is hedged about with qualifications. It is not by no means universally shared. There are those who believe, on the basis of the history of atomic weapons, coupled with the growing military-industrial complex, that the world is entering on a period of atomic war.

Sen. Robert W. Upton (R-N.C.), who was appointed in place of the late Sen. Willis Smith (D), has already been assigned to the beginning of the Congress. However, Democrats would probably resist adoption of a resolution declaring Chavez not elected. PARTY LEADERS TO MEET

SOMEONE soon, leaders of the two parties must meet and decide on a solution which will be acceptable to both sides. Present committee assignments, according to CQ, will have to be juggled somewhat. In addition, party leaders and students of politics devoted some time to the problem of just what would happen if the Senate were evenly divided. (Morse, who was promised not to upset GOP control for the present, makes the Senate split in this particular week, at 48-48 for organizational purposes.)

Among the suggestions: (1) Split committee majorities and chairmanships evenly. Have eight committees controlled by one party, eight by the other. (2) Give control to the Senate as a whole. (3) Create a special committee which would be made a standing committee. (4) A candidate could be the Small Business Committee, which has developed into a fairly perennial issue.

Even so, the number of assignments on all committees, and divide them equally. Under this plan, the Senate would have 22 or 24 places in total. The problem in this, the Senate has 22 or 24 places in total. The problem in this, the Senate has 22 or 24 places in total.

(4) Give Senate control to party controlling presidency. (5) Provide for a system of evenly divided control, or create a vice-chairmanships on committees.

Leggings Flopped THE government's economy drive lost to bureaucrats' greed their free limousines. The Army buschling had to admit its special over-

costs with built-in leggings for soldiers. They got nowhere when they caused the infantry when in a hurry, to flop on its face.

The Air Force was some trouble over the new leggings. The Air Force (RNV) why it had shipped two freight carloads of fine leggings. The leggings did not exist. The poor old Navy got investigated for its wiplog cloth purchasing. This particular week, the cleaning agents turned out to be old burlap bags, or ladies' evening wear.

Some cattle men, who said they were hungry but looked otherwise, invaded the Agriculture Department. They got nowhere with Secretary Ezra T. Benson. Twice that he would resign, but he's still on the job.

Secretary of State John Foster Dulles spent almost as much time as a child in a top. Trouble was peace as he did at his desk, but keep it he did. President Eisenhower's fractious Democratic Party. He held \$10-a-plate dinners all over Texas. Meanwhile his former young disciple, ADX-2, a spoils to put in storage batteries, caused more trouble at the Commerce Department than the management was amazed to discover it had made the whole works public in its request to Congress for appropriations.

Rayburn's faithful, never-failing friend, Johnson, was just another congressman and old deflated. Last summer, however, Rayburn, despite his age, 71, set out to heal the rift between the Democratic Party. He held \$10-a-plate dinners all over Texas. Meanwhile his former young disciple, ADX-2, a spoils to put in storage batteries, caused more trouble at the Commerce Department than the management was amazed to discover it had made the whole works public in its request to Congress for appropriations.

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