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WE NEED A BETTER DRIVER INSURANCE LAW

IF YOU'RE UNLUCKY enough to get hurt in a car accident in North Carolina, through no fault of your own, you might have a second stroke of bad luck. More than likely, you'll pay for the damages that someone else did to you and your car.

Unfair? Of course it is. Why should you have to make this unjust payment? Because our state is one of six that still has grossly inadequate financial responsibility laws for motorists.

Two cars out of every three in this state are driven by persons who don't carry automobile liability insurance. If you're hit by an uninsured driver without money or property that a court could attach, you'll pay your own doctor and garage bills.

Under the North Carolina system, a driver must furnish proof of his financial ability to pay damages in the future:

(1) *after* his driver's license has been suspended for failure for more than 60 days to satisfy a judgment of more than $50, arising from an accident, or

(2) *after* his driver's license has been suspended or revoked for certain serious infractions of the motor vehicle laws.

To furnish this proof, the infractor usually takes out auto liability insurance. But there's no way of assuring that drivers are financially responsible *before* they get into trouble.

There are two better, fairer ways of protecting drivers involved in accidents, both the blameless and the blamed.

One way is through adoption of the "universal" plan, in force only in Massachusetts. Under it every car owner is required to take out auto liability insurance before he can register his automobile.

Forty-one other states have the New Hampshire, or "security" plan. It usually includes features of the North Carolina plan, with this additional, important requirement:

When an accident occurs and is reported, each *uninsured* driver involved in the accident must deposit security with the Commissioner of Motor Vehicles in an amount sufficient to satisfy judgments for damages which might arise from the accident.

This additional requirement has substantially increased the number of insured motorists in states that have switched from the old North Carolina system to the "security" plan. Usually the percentage of insured motorists rose from 30 to 35 per cent to as high as 85 or 90 per cent.

Last week in Raleigh Sen. A. Pilston Godwin introduced a bill (SB105) that would give this state the "security" system. If adopted, it would be a decided improvement over our present law. If it created an incentive to insure as strong as in other states, then two out of three, or four out of five North Carolina drivers would be adequately insured, instead of the present one out of three.

But we are still concerned over the fact that, even under this improved system, 10, 20 or 30 per cent of the state's drivers may be financially irresponsible. According to the proposed law, they would have to deposit security. What if they had none? Many drivers of cars that are involved in accidents have little money. You can't get blood out of a turnip. The attachment of his pittance would work severe hardship on him, and not adequately reimburse the person he sent to the hospital. Compulsory liability insurance would be fairer to both parties.

There are arguments against compulsory liability insurance. There may be political interference with rates. Damage awards and thus rates may increase as juries, knowing the extent of coverage, became more plaintiff-minded.

Possibly these arguments can be effectively countered. For example, a limit on the amount of damages that juries can award may be set.

We trust the General Assembly will improve the liability laws this session. We also hope their action is thoughtfully-considered, and based upon the excellent over-all summary of motor vehicle laws as prepared recently by the Institute of Government.

A FRANK, REASSURING NEWS CONFERENCE

THE President, we think, acquitted himself well yesterday at his first news conference. He did not once use the "no comment" dodge. Despite his frankness concerning some matters with which he is not yet fully acquainted, his foot and mouth retained their proper distance from each other.

The President answered every query tossed at him in the 13-minute question and answer period. Many of the reporters wanted to prolong the session. They felt that (1) it had been a long time since Mr. Eisenhower last held a press conference, and (2) much had happened in the interval.

But if they were unhappy about the brevity of the question-answer period, they were impressed by the President's quick, sure grasp of big issues—a remarkable contrast, incidentally, with the stumbling, fumbling job by Candidate Eisenhower at the Abilene press conference last June.

The President's remarks should reassure several groups who have been disturbed by recent speculation. Our allies will be happy to know that a blockade or embargo of China does not impend. The farmers will find no cause for alarm in the President's recognition of the seriousness of the declining farm price problem. His observation that farm prices decreased considerably during the previous Administration, and in some cases increased after price controls recently were removed, may restore the perspective some farm state Congressmen sought to obscure.

Not reassured by the President, we are happy to say, were the advocates of quick tax cuts. He left the impression that those taxes scheduled to expire this year must be renewed or replaced, a not too popular but most realistic position.

Yesterday, too, the Administration announced that Democratic Congressmen would be invited to sit in on both foreign and domestic policy talks, as they indeed should.

The Administration has not yet completed its first month in office. But the foundation it's building seems sound.

IT'S GOOD FOR FORD, AND THE U. S. A.

GENERAL MOTORS, they say, is in the driver's seat in Washington. Ford is entitled to some space in the back seat, where its advice will be heeded. For yesterday young Henry Ford, speaking to the Inland Daily Press Association in Chicago, delivered a speech packed with economic sense.

One of the happiest and most significant trends in business thinking that developed recently is this: More and more top-flight industrialists are becoming out-and-out free-traders. Republican Congressmen still voice their party's traditional protectionist philosophy. Not so with the businessmen. For example, have a look at Mr. Ford's four major suggestions, regarding trade, to the new Administration:

"First, we should write a new law without loopholes encouraging the most rapid possible elimination of all tariffs. By making gradual reductions in hardship cases, the few industries really seriously affected would have an opportunity to adapt themselves to new conditions. We should drop the Smoot-Hawley Tariff and the now outmoded Reciprocal Trade Agreements Act, which has been pretty well riddled with holes in its yearly treks through Congress.

"Second, we should abandon completely the quota system, which is contrary to every principle of free enterprise. Under quotas regardless of price, demand or any other factor, only a fixed amount of a product can come into the country. . .

"Third, we should abandon the Buy American Act. . .

"Fourth, we should enact promptly a workable law for simplifying customs procedures."

Mr. Ford's proposals certainly are in line with our country's policy, as defined by the President, of "enlightened self-interest". If U. S. imports are raised by just two per cent, that will bring several billions of dollars to foreign countries—and billions of dollars worth of goods to this country. More trade with the U. S. means less aid from the U. S.

The present Buy American Act prohibits the Federal, and some state and local, governments from buying foreign goods, unless they are priced at least 25 per cent under the lowest domestic bid. This provision may cost America as much as half a billion dollars a year. Why? Mr. Ford cited this example:

"A foreign manufacturer, after paying a 45 per cent import duty, underbid two American firms by substantially more than 25 per cent on an Army contract. In subsequent bids the Americans, oddly enough, were able to come down almost 50 per cent. That brought them just within the 25 per cent Buy American margin."

In other words, foreign competition, despite tariff walls, forced U. S. contractors to squeeze the gravy out of their bids. More competition means fewer inflated bids, more savings for the taxpayer.

Mr. Ford, unlike "silver" Senators or "cotton" Congressmen, does not except his particular province from his program. "I believe," he said, "we ought to get rid of the 10 per cent tariff on automobiles at once."

Young Henry's philosophy was shared in good measure by his grandfather. In the twenties, automobile dealers were "protected", that is, they could sell only in a restricted area. Henry Sr., realizing the implications of these artificial barriers, removed all area restrictions from Ford dealerships. The result—competition increased among dealers, and sales zoomed.

The Ford philosophy works. It will work on an international scale if the new Administration and Congress will apply it. To paraphrase Charlie Wilson, in this instance, "What's good for Ford is good for the United States," and vice versa.

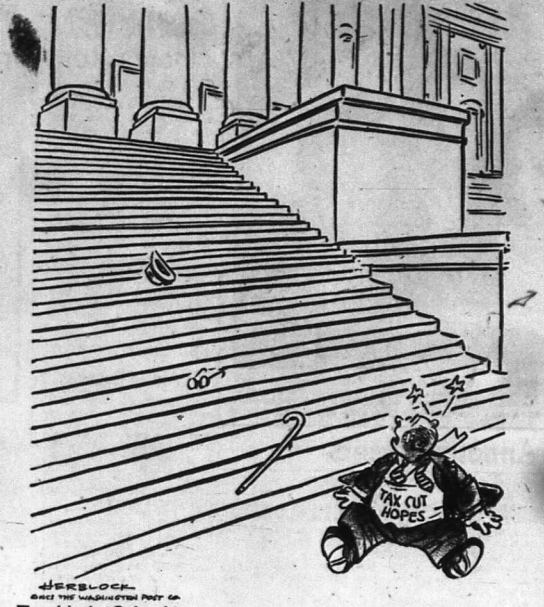
Usually we don't like the cute names some people select for their home places, but the retiring mathematics professor who named his rural retreat "After Math" had an idea.—*Memphis Press-Scimitar.*

Youngsters marched out carrying their books when a grade school burned in Tennessee. Won't those kids ever learn anything?—*Fort Myers (Fla.) News-Press.*

First Politician—The moment when I discovered the tie-up with organized crime, I got out of it.

Second Politician—How much?—*Greenville (Tenn.) Sun.*

'Well, Do You Think Tomorrow Maybe?'



Trouble In Colombia

Persecution Of Protestants

By ROBERT M. HALLETT
In The Christian Science Monitor

CONTINUING reports of religious persecution of Protestants in Colombia are arousing increasing protests and demands for investigation around the globe.

Recent critics of this situation have included the Board of Missions of the Methodist Church; the Central Committee of the World Council of Churches, meeting in India; the Protestant magazines Presbyterian Life and British Weekly; the Latin American division of the Presbyterian Board of Foreign Missions, and some Roman Catholic sources.

As evidence that the persecution has not come to an end, the Evangelical Confederation of Colombia, representing 17 Protestant mission groups, reported more than 150 cases of religious persecution in Colombia during 1952. The murder of seven Protestants, destruction of three churches, bombing of six churches and missionary residences, stoning of 12 churches, imprisonment of 40 Protestants and closing of 12 schools by the government were charged. The confederation said priests were involved in 35 per cent of the cases while government officials and police figured in 58 per cent.

Catholic Concerned

THE most recent recommendation on the matter in the United States was put forth by a Roman Catholic, Msgr. Luigi G. Ligutti, executive director of the National Catholic Rural Life Conference. He suggested that three American social scientists be selected to investigate charges that the Roman Catholic Church in Colombia is engaged in widespread persecution of Protestants and missionaries. He suggested that the panel spend three to six months in Colombia making a "thorough and intensive study of all factors in the situation," according to the New York Times.

Another recommendation was posed in recent issues of the Presbyterian Life and the British Weekly. They jointly suggested a conference between Roman Catholics, Protestants, and the Colombian Government. They advocated attendance of representatives of the United Nations, the United States, Britain, Canada and the press.

Presbyterian Life also criticized the attitude of the United States State Department for its failure to take a stand against the religious persecutions in Colombia. In answer to the Department's explanation that this is an internal Colombian affair, it pointed to positive positions taken in other cases:

"Why did the State Department . . . issue a formal statement denouncing the recent trials of Roman Catholic priests and laymen in Bulgaria? And what about the truce that the State Department apparently helped arrange between Protestants and the Italian Government in the recent closing of churches in Rome?"

Colombian Roman Catholics and many spokesmen in this country have been inclined to attribute the incidents to the instigation of fanatical missionaries and over-zealous converts.

According to a top-ranking member of the Colombian hierarchy quoted by the Times, every case of persecution involving a priest has been investigated by "highest ecclesiastical authority." He added that there was no record of a priest's implication a second time after the church had made its inquiry.

Colombian Protestants concede that some of their missionaries arrive in that country without sufficient knowledge of Latin patterns of thought and that their evangelical zeal may at times contribute to misunderstandings. However, a respected Presbyterian churchman in that country said the hostility of the state church against his denomination is as strong as against the more militant evangelists.

The Board of Missions of the Methodist Church charged that some of the persecution had been fomented by priests. Deploring "any loss of religious freedom in Colombia or any other part of the world," the board declared its readiness to co-operate with other groups to bring the matter to the attention of the United Nations and the State Department. A similar resolution was passed recently in an international conference at Lucknow, India, by the Central Committee of the World Council of Churches.

Commonweal's Condemnation

WHILE many Roman Catholic publications and individuals have criticized Protestants for attempting to proselytize in Colombia, the American Catholic lay journal, Commonweal, in an editorial some months ago, condemned both the Colombian persecutors and their apologists in this country:

"We must admit that no matter what the provocation (and undoubtedly the case is not clearly a black and white one) no excuse can be given for violent mob action against religious minorities. The Catholic answer, in this case, must be to pray for the blasphemer, nor to persecute him. When a group of fanatics, Catholic or otherwise, resorts to force and violence, it must be condemned. No 'provocation' can excuse it."

Dr. W. Stanley Ryeroff, secretary for Latin America of the Presbyterian Board of Foreign Missions recently said the Roman Catholic Church's "paradoxical" position on the question of religious persecution "serves only to weaken the cause of freedom" all over the world and hurt the interest of the Roman Catholic Church as well as that of all other churches.

Quote, Unquote

Senators hear that government stenographers overseas get $6,000 a year and have personal maids. In testing their machines they probably write, "The quick brown mink . . ."—**Fort Myers (Fla.) News-Press.**

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Satan—Hey, (to the new arrival)—you act as if you owned the place.

Man-I did, on my wife gave it to me before I died.—**Greeneville (Tenn.) Sun.**

Gerhard Eisler may find the Communists really have invented one thing better than Americans—a non-bail-jumping jail.—**Memphis Press-Scimitar.**

The South African premier sent an airplane racing to an Indian Ocean island to help preserve the carcass of a dead fish of a type once believed extinct millions of years. But that isn't much more trouble than a good fisherman would go to in order to catch a six-pound bass. —**Greenville (S.C.) Piedmont.**

Drew Pearson's Merry-Go-Round

Ridgway Handles A Tough Job Well

WASHINGTON

ACCORDING to the customary rules of journalism, this column should be written under a European dateline. However, a newspaperman travels so fast in these modern days of airplanes and collects so much material that you can't write it all before you find yourself home.

This column therefore is to report on one of the least envied, but most efficient men in Europe, Gen. Matthew Ridgway. To some extent he is also one of the most unpopular because he has inherited the disagreeable job of pulling the North Atlantic Pact organization together and making it meet its 50-division military goal.

Here are some of the things Ridgway is up against:

1. Too many ambassadors spoil the broth—So many diplomatic cooks are stirring the European defense soup that the Europeans play them off against each other. If they don't like the arms demands made by General Ridgway, they go over his head to roving NATO Ambassador William Draper.

If they don't like what Draper says they've been able to go to Deputy Ambassador Frederick Anderson; or to Ambassador Livingston Merchant, in charge of NATO political problems; or until recently to Ambassador Paul Porter, in charge of economic problems. Also, there is Luke Finlay, ambassador for co-ordinating military assistance and economic problems, and finally our regular U. S. Ambassador to France, James C. Dunn.

As gentle Gen. Omar Bradley suggested to Secretary Dulles in a briefing recently, "There are getting to be more Americans in Paris than Frenchmen."

2. Divided French Army—The French Army is split in loyalty between General de Gaulle, who is not in command, and the French government, which is in command. Thus, when the U. S. Joint Chiefs of Staffs asked the late Marshal de Lattre de Tassigny, commander in Indo-China, to accept a U. S. military aide, Tassigny hemmed and hawed, complained privately that it would put him under the command of "young Ridgway." Finally he asked advice, not from the French war ministry in Paris, but from General de Gaulle. This was the equivalent of having Gen. Mark Clark in Tokyo ask ex-President Harry Truman in Independence, Mo., how he should operate in Korea. De Gaulle incidentally advised accepting the U. S. military aide.

3. Civilian meddling—Allied representatives on the NATO Council, especially the British, are constantly muddying up the defense waters. Lord Ismay, the British representative, is a third-rate would-be statesman who hinders more than he helps. When General Ridgway made a speech before the Council urging greater speed in building air bases, barracks, radar installations, etc., Lord Ismay and other civilian chiefs refused to let him publish it. They didn't want European populations to know how drastically they were cutting Ridgway's proposed budget.

These permanent installations originally were estimated at 400 million pounds, then cut to 176 million pounds, then arbitrarily cut by civilian NATO chiefs by another 52 million pounds. Yet these permanent installations are all-essential to the defense of Europe. Building them now will save money in the long run.

Difficult Inheritance

TWICE General Ridgway has taken over jobs from headline-famous predecessors. He succeeded MacArthur in Tokyo and Eisenhower in Paris. Both have been difficult inheritances.

In Paris, Ridgway's tough and realistic policy has been rather a sudden change from Eisenhower's charm and diplomacy. Actually it took a man like Eisenhower to bring the European nations together on the same team, but now a little of Ridgway's realism is necessary to make them face the facts.

For instance, he has been sending rather discouraging reports to the Pentagon, pointing out some glaring deficiencies in European defense.

The cables have been carefully worded so as not to reflect on his predecessor, but Ridgway has reported that while NATO nations have been frantically recruiting 50 combat divisions, nothing has been made for service troops. Thus, in case of a Russian attack, it would be left up to each of the 14 individual nations to furnish supplies over extremely tangled supply lines.

Ridgway also has informed the Pentagon that our supply centers were wide open to an attack, and that no provision had been made for handling the refugees who clogged military routes and bogged down defending armies when Hitler attacked.

Some of these disagreeable realities, reported back to Washington, probably led to the rash of stories that Ridgway would resign. When the NATO commander heard the stories, he phoned General Bradley in Washington and asked: "Do you want me to resign?"

The answer was "no."

The above, of course, is the blacker side of the European defense picture—the side that needs to be remedied. However, the most important fact is that 14 nations are definitely working together in an effort to pool their armies and are stationing foreign troops on their soil. This is an effort unprecedented in time of peace. And despite all the hitches and headaches it can lead to better all-round co-operation both for peace and—if it must happen—war.

Experienced Observers Think Likelihood Of War Increasing

By MARQUIS CHILDS

WASHINGTON

THE various steps taken by the Eisenhower Administration to get back to normal (in an earlier era, the word was normalcy) are reflected in the news that six million passenger cars will be manufactured this year. Many of the controls on prices and wages had already become inoperative by reason of a flow of production making consumer goods available in abundance.

Yet against the background of the state of the world, as seen in top level intelligence reports prepared for the men who must make policy, these steps appear curiously contradictory. The intelligence estimates say the danger of a third World War is rapidly increasing. Soviet Russia is reported ready to make moves in the immediate future that could bring a showdown with the West.

Six months ago, and again recently, Prime Minister Winston Churchill voiced the belief that the threat of war was receding. He is now of the contrary opinion and has so expressed himself in grave and, presumably, terms. This is a significant indicator since Churchill, as he demonstrated in the years just before World War II, has an uncanny sense of approaching peril.

REDS WOO ARABS

Partly the new estimate is based on Russia's campaign of anti-Semitism, with its latest consequences in the breaking off of Soviet relations with the Israeli government. This policy casts a long shadow over the deeply troubled Middle East. It is believed aimed at driving the West out of that region where the greatest petrolum reserves in the world—up to 100 billion barrels, more than five times that in the United States—is at stake. Already the intelligence reports show this campaign has worsened the position of the West in the Arab countries.

The importance that Stalin puts on this prize cannot be exaggerated. In the negotiations with the Nazis leading to the Stalin-Hitler pact, the Soviet dictator always demanded one condition on which there could be no bargaining—a free hand in the Middle East. That was the issue on which the break came in 1940, with Stalin knowing that a Nazi invasion might follow the dispute over which power should exploit the raw material—human as well as mineral—in the Arab world.

The steps planned to follow what has now been begun will push the risk very far. Without the oil of the Middle East, Western Europe could not exist. If its loss were to be made up in this hemisphere, every American passenger car would have to go off the road almost overnight.

DIPLOMAT'S VIEW

The timing of Russia's next moves must be considered in relation to Communist attitudes toward American political developments. Shortly after Nov. 4, a diplomat familiar through long association with Communist maneuvers and machinations was asked how the Kremlin would regard the election of General Eisenhower. His answer came without hesitation:

"You remember, of course, Gen. Kurt von Schleicher in Germany. He tried to hold together a conservative coalition as Chancellor for a brief time in 1932-33 before Hitler came to power with totalitarian control and a plan of world conquest. The Kremlin will consider Eisenhower the equivalent of von Schleicher."

Fantastic as this sounds to an American, it is not inconceivable in view of the weirdly distorted picture which the Communist conspirators hold of this country. It is a picture compounded of fear, hatred, prejudice and the kind of wishful thinking that fits the Marxist pattern.

In the gray world of not-peace-not-war, the Eisenhower administration is trying to move toward a peacetime America and away from the inhibitions of a wartime economy. But the danger signals must cause not a little nervous looking over the shoulder even as this happens.

Whistle, Supersonically, And Watch The Clothes Get Washed

By FREDERICK C. OTHMAN

WASHINGTON

LOOKS like I'll have to resurrect, from beneath the socks in the bottom drawer, my old supersonic dog whistle — for dish washing purposes.

This whistle, when blown hard, is supposed to make sounds of such high frequencies that people can't hear it, only dogs. I tried it out on Emma, the big, brown poodle, but she ignored it. Whether this indicates that Emma has a mind of her own, or the soundless whistle is defective, I have no way of telling.

All I do know is that supersonics are about to burst upon us in a noiseless industrial revolution. All over this land the experts are experimenting with new kinds of transducers to turn electricity into silent sound for doing useful work. They see the day when sound waves will cut grass, kill mosquitoes, mix paint, pasteurize milk, and scrape burnt pans.

They're already washing clothes and cleaning goo off machinery and I'm waiting hopefully for a portable sound generator, with adjustable nozzle, to take over most of my work.

Even now, our washing machine manufacturers are watching with interest the $39.50 supersonic clothes washer being manufactured in Chicago. I have not yet seen one of these wonder workers, but as explained to me, it is a small metal box with rounded corners and an electric cord. Drop it into an old tub or bucket of water, put in the clothes, throw the switch, and light a cigarette.

DIRT SHAKES OFF

The vibrations in the water at the rate of 400,000 per minute are supposed to knock the dirt from the fibers and clean the clothes —in a matter of seconds. I cannot personally vouch for this, but those who have observed the process claim it left them goggle-eyed.

Then there's the Detrex Corporation. This is a Detroit firm long in the business of manufacturing industrial cleaning machines to take grease off nuts and bolts and remove scale from steel plates. This is hard work, even for machinery, and the experts here are turning it over to sound waves.

Their problem according to W. F. Meyers, who labored long to solve it, was making a transducer to turn electrical impulses into ultrasonic waves. Only suitable material in the past was quartz crystal. This came in pieces so small that it would do cleaning jobs only in miniature.

Newbery and friends came up with a new transducer made of a special and secret ceramic, which they insist does the job as well as quartz.

Their present transducer looks like a six-inch piece of pipe, cut in half. They send electric current through this in a heavy charge and submerge it in a tub of cleaning fluid known as trichlorethylene. Then they scrape from metal and glass, in a matter of seconds, any gook that may be adhering thereto.

BIGGER ONES COMING

Newbery said it was only a matter of time before larger transducers will be made; today his six-inchers are being hooked up in series to handle larger jobs, and the future of wonder workers at work dazzles him. Particularly does he impress me with the thought that spaghetti burned to the bottom of a baking dish, or milk scorched in a sauce pan, succumb to sound quicker than you can read this sentence.

The military, which long has conducted supersonic experiments has mentioned the possibility of cutting grass by spraying it with sound. Others have testified that in the laboratory, at least, a properly tuned sound generator will knock off mosquitoes.

Emma, come here, girl. I'm going to give you a supersonic bath.