

'Have A Seat — I Want To Talk To You'

New Formosa Policy OK If It's Merely A Psychological Move

By MARQUIS CHILDS

WASHINGTON
 ANY interpretation of the new policy on Formosa must be looked into the long-range meaning of this first step. For the immediate future it fits the subject of keeping the Communists guessing and is therefore part of an extensive program of psychological warfare.

The fact is that any raids the Chinese nationalists might conduct today or in the next few months could have been carried out at any time in the past half-year. They have been conducting small experimental raids not from Formosa, which is closer to the mainland. Information received here indicates that the losses from such raids have been in excess of the number of men involved.

American intelligence sources report that trained Chinese Communist military forces up to 400,000 are being kept in the Peking government to enlarge this force and thereby drain off some of the Communist reserve available in Korea. This also could help to reduce the ever-present threat of Chinese infiltration in the war-torn areas seized by Communist guerrillas in Indo-China where the French have suffered heavy losses for more than five years.

British intelligence reports, if they are to be believed, do not differ from American estimates. The British believe that the Chinese Communists have largely finished their troops from the area opposite Formosa since they have come to discount the danger of Chinese Nationalist raids.

The British attitude is complicated by many factors. One is Hong Kong, the British crown colony which represents a large investment. The fear in London is that the first serious military move of the Peking regime to the declaration on Formosa will be to threaten Hong Kong.

Unquestionably, President Eisenhower's statement on Formosa on the matter of the Western alliance. The fear is that American policy — and consequently American interest and American aid — will be

increasingly deflected to the East. If the United States is to have a real striking power, then American assistance to Formosa must be greatly augmented with a view to developing a naval and air force. This concern was evident in Eisenhower's statement to the Foreign Secretary Assembly of the House of Commons.

The harm done in Western Europe by the Communists is so great as the new policy is kept in the context of a move on the chessboard of psychological warfare. What many fear—not only in London and in Paris but in Washington—is that this first step may lead inexorably toward American involvement in a large-scale war on the mainland of China.

Large questions of policy are involved here. Some are saying that before such a move the approval of the United States Congress is obtained by a declaration of war against Communist China. The approval of Congress was not obtained for the "polio" action in Korea.

Naturally Chiang Kai-shek will favor the new policy, since he is dedicated to restoring his own authority in a China purged of the Communists. That cannot be done until the Communists are removed from Formosa, regardless of how much American aid is forthcoming. In the past, the United States has been a skeptical view of the Chinese Nationalists. It can be done only with large-scale American intervention on the mainland.

It is the President's difficult role to appraise the pressures from one side and another.

A BETTER LOWER COURT SYSTEM

THE SEVERAL suggestions to improve the lower court system in Mecklenburg County, the one put forth by City Solicitor Tom Lane has the greatest merit.

As explained by our Miss Sawyer, in her series on this page this week, the Lane plan envisages a county-wide lower court with three divisions:

1. A criminal court to try misdemeanors and hold preliminary hearings in felonies.
2. A traffic division for all traffic cases, including moving violations now handled by the Traffic Waiver Bureau of the City Recorder's court.
3. A small claims court, to hear civil actions under \$1,000.

Solicitor Lane believes there should be three judges, appointed by the County Commissioners and City Councilmen, and that they should rotate every month. Each court

would hold morning and afternoon sessions, if necessary.

Admittedly, the Lane proposal would not save any money. It would, however, produce a more uniform brand of justice, enable speedier trial, be more convenient for defendants, witnesses, and lawyers, and keep the Superior Civil Court dockets clear of the hundreds of small claims now cluttering it up.

In all phases of city-county consolidation, there is a great inertia to be overcome. The extensive changes that will be recommended by the Division of Motor Vehicles later, and there is resistance to change.

Leadership will be essential if a better inferior court system is to be developed for Mecklenburg County. That leadership should come from the Mecklenburg County Bar Association which, so far, has been strangely disinterested.

MUCH ADO ABOUT 'HOT RODS'

THERE may be some justification for the bill recommended by Governor Unstead and introduced by Representative Branch of Halifax to ban from the highway any automobile altered from the original manufacturer's specifications to increase its speed.

Capt. Charles A. Speed, commander of State Highway Patrol Troop E and Police Chief James Waller of Winston-Salem told a legislative committee this week that the "hot rods" are a serious menace to highway safety.

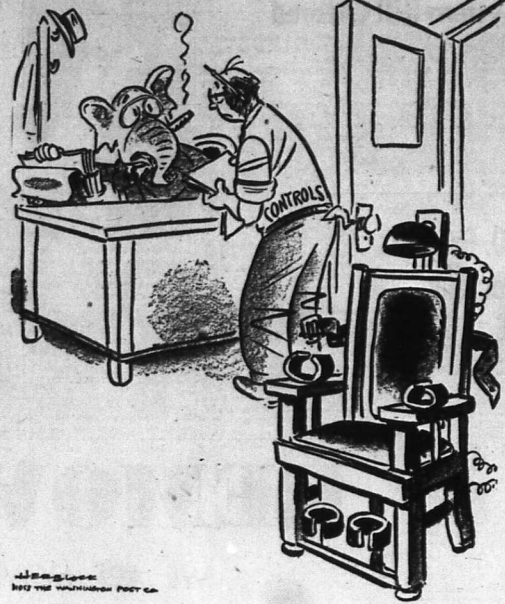
Neither, however, produced any statistics to support their contention. In fact, the N. C. Motor Vehicles Division has never tried to compile any factual information on the role of speed-up automobiles in highway accidents.

Until someone can prove the case, we're not going to get very excited about the Branch bill, one way or the other. American boys are great tinkers, and we suspect they'll keep right on jazzing up their cars whether the bill passes or not.

For that matter, we see little difference between the souped-up "hot rod" engines and the new standard autos with their tremendously powerful motors. Both will go far beyond the safe speed limit, and so long as the power is there, the driver is tempted to use it.

The Institute of Government has recently issued a thick handbook analyzing the motor vehicle laws of North Carolina and explaining the extensive changes that will be recommended by the Division of Motor Vehicles later in the current General Assembly session.

Significantly, the book makes no mention of "hot rods." We suspect the omission is not accidental, that "hot rods" are relatively unimportant to the total highway safety picture. And we suggest 40 Representative Branch and his fellow legislators that they will profit more by waiting until the Motor Vehicles Division presents its series of bills. Patchwork changes, unsupported by evidence and unchangeable by fact, are not likely to improve the situation materially.



Congressional Fight Shapes Up

By CONGRESSIONAL QUARTERLY

THE fight between the federal government and the states over the ownership of oil under the sea is back on the floor of Congress.

Many measures have been introduced in the 83rd Congress to give title to the submerged lands and minerals to adjoining states. But proposals also have been introduced to give the federal government primary control of the disputed lands.

In one of his last major acts in office, outgoing President Harry S. Truman by executive order declared the oil-bearing offshore oil lands to be a naval reserve. However, President Dwight D. Eisenhower and many Members of Congress have voiced approval of state ownership, so Truman's order may be revoked. The new Secretary of the Navy, Robert E. Anderson, is a Texas oil man.

Although the issue generally is referred to as "tidelands," the real tidelands (the land between low and high tide marks) are not involved in the fight. The federal government and the states agree that the actual tidelands belong to the states.

Oil But Turbulent 'Idelands'

For And Against

THE heaviest pressure on Congress for state ownership has come from the major oil-producing states themselves. Among the organizations which have endorsed state control are:

- American Bar Association, United States Chamber of Commerce, Southern States Industrial Council and the National Reclamation Association.
- Walter S. Hallinan, chairman of the Offshore Leasees Committee, once told a Senate committee that it is "generally known" that the oil industry previously had favored state operation of offshore lands but, with new explorations in 1952, they were checked by the dispute in Congress, and because of the "mandate of the Supreme Court," the oil industry wanted validation of existing leases and interim federal control of new leases as "the only way out." Hallinan was temporary chairman of the Republican National Convention in Chicago in 1952.

Among groups which have favored federal control are:

- American Council on Education, American Federation of Labor Organizations, National Labor Relations, National Guard, National Farmers Union and the Consumers Cooperative Association.

Involves Three-Mile Limit

ALMOST all measures introduced in Congress on the subject make mention of the "three-mile limit." This limit, according to Stewart French, an attorney for the Senate Interior and Insular Affairs Committee, is three miles seaward from the mean low tide as established by the U. S. Coast and Geodetic Survey of the Department of Commerce. It is this three-mile boundary along the coasts that is largely involved in the fight.

In the case of Florida and Texas, some of the Congressional measures would give those states control of submerged lands 10 and 12 miles (three Spanish leagues) beyond the mean low tide, since that is the limit said to have been in effect when the states were admitted to the Union.

The battle over ownership of the oil under the sea developed in late 1950's, when it was first realized that enough oil could be obtained from submerged lands to be of national importance. The dispute came before Congress for the first time in 1957.

Congress passed state ownership bills in 1946 and 1948, but each time the measure was vetoed by President Truman. An attempt to override the 1946 veto failed. No override attempt was made in 1948.

States Foresee Victory

IN the past support for state control has come from most Republicans and some Democrats—especially those from Texas and Florida. With Republicans now in control of both houses, and with Eisenhower having endorsed state ownership, the contest will be between Democrats and those who wish to win their fight.

Texas and Louisiana are the three states with the most at stake in the dispute, while Florida is regarded as a potential coastal oil producer.

The coastal states have based their case for state ownership on historical claims, while the federal government has argued that Supreme Court decisions in 1947 and 1950 (against California, Louisiana and Texas) established "paramount rights" for the federal government over submerged lands and minerals.

Drew Pearson's Merry-Go-Round

WASHINGTON
 Douglas McKay ran into a White House delay in appointing his top assistants in the Interior Department.

McKay sent a list of names to the White House for appointment as Undersecretary of the Interior, Assistant Secretary, Solicitor, etc. They remained at the White House for a week, then came back.

Following this, McKay called on President Eisenhower, stood his ground, put up a fight to have his men appointed. To a certain extent, McKay's list of names was approved by the President.

Reported reason for the White House opposition was partly the fact that one name on the list was that of Clarence Davis of Nebraska to be Solicitor of the Interior Department. Davis happens to be a professed Hugh Butler, strongly pro-Taft Senator from Nebraska.

Butler is the Senator who blocked the appointment of ex-Gov. Val Peterson as Secretary of the Interior, later to the Agriculture Department, and finally as Assistant Secretary of the Interior. Eisenhower had to give Peterson an appointment on his own White House staff where he wasn't subject to Senate confirmation.

Another name on the list was that of ex-Congressman Fred Landmark of North Dakota. Senator Langer of North Dakota was opposed to Aandahl, who ran against the Senator and had been kicking around in his criticism, wanted able Harry E. Polk, publisher of the Williston, N. D., Herald.

Polk has been president of the National Association on Reclamation and seemed well qualified to handle reclamation problems. On the other hand, ex-Congressman Aandahl published an open letter in opposition to Eisenhower for President and vigorously supporting Taft.

However, Secretary McKay was smart enough to know that if he got the White House to telephone Senator Langer and tacitly wangle a promise that he not oppose Aandahl, following this, McKay wrote to the White House, got an ok of the ex-governor from North Dakota who had tried to defeat ex-Gov. Peterson.

Note—Clarence Davis, proposed as Interior Department Solicitor, is one of the few anti-public power men in Nebraska, a state which has developed public power extensively.

Various Proposals

TWO measures which have been introduced in the Senate this year to give the offshore lands to the states have about the same provisions as the legislation passed by the Congress in 1952. They would give all coastal states ownership of underwater lands seaward to the three-mile limit, except in the case of Texas and Florida where the limit would be extended to 10 1/2 miles beyond mean low tide.

One is sponsored by freshman Sen. Price Daniel (D-Tex.), who as state attorney general presented the case for Texas in which the Supreme Court ruled in favor of state ownership of the lands in 1950.

The other such measure was introduced by Sen. Spencer (D-Ill.) and 14 other Democrats and 25 Republicans.

Sen. Clinton P. Anderson (D-NM) has introduced an interim measure giving the federal government complete control of the submerged lands beyond the three-mile limit. Under his bill the federal government would jointly own with the states submerged lands seaward to the three-mile limit, with the states getting 37 1/2 per cent of the oil.

The measure would be effective for five years. It also would establish clear title to lands underlying inland navigable waters, a provision which was offered by federal tidelands control advocates in the 82nd Congress in 1952.

Sen. Fred A. Anderson's bill has been submitted by Sen. Lister Hill (D-Ala.), 17 other Democrats, three Republicans and Wayne Morse (D-Ore.). It would set aside federal lands for offshore oil for aid to education, including primary and secondary schools and colleges and universities.

A measure to establish a commission to assist in making proper and fair settlement of the submerged lands problem has been introduced by Sen. Estes Kefauver (D-Tenn.), four other Democrats, two Republicans and Morse. All are among the co-sponsors of the bill.

Rep. Craig Truman (R-Calif.) has introduced a bill to set aside Homer's order giving the submerged lands to the Navy.

McCarren's Bargain

INSIDE reasons why President Truman suddenly "relented" regarding his bitter enemy, Sen. Pat McCarran, and appointed McCarran's man as U. S. Attorney General in Nevada can now be told. After holding up the appointment of James W. Johnson for over six months, McCarran appointed him U. S. Attorney for Nevada just seven days before he left the White House.

A lot of strange things happened during the closing days of Truman administration, but few stranger than this. Senator McCarran had rushed Johnson's name through the Senate Judiciary Committee for confirmation last July 4 even before the White House sent Johnson's name to the Senate.

This is an almost unheard-of procedure. Names of appointees are sent to the Senate first, confirmed by the Senate, and then the man confirmed even before Johnson's name left the White House.

Reason for the rush was to get action before Congress adjourned. He was rushed that current U. S. Attorney Miles Pike did not even know he had resigned.

White House Cool To McKa's Aides

But while Senator McCarran holds the State of Nevada pretty much in his hand, and little he seemed able to twist Attorney General Jim McGranery around his own will, the White House is producing on the new U. S. Attorney for Nevada.

McGranery and Johnson's name was not sent to the Senate—was they were already confirmed. Harry Truman in person held it up.

But just before Truman left office, Sen. Lyndon Johnson, new Democratic leader of the Senate, came down to the White House and asked Johnson as a special favor to appoint McCarran's man as U. S. Attorney for Nevada.

He said the Democrats had bargained with McCarran on the organization of the new U. S. Attorney General, and McCarran had already needed a trading point with Truman finally agreed.

"All right," he told the Texas Senator, "I'll give this to you, Lyndon. It's all yours. It was not a job. How could you that old so-and-so couldn't produce, you bring it back to me."

YOU'RE NEVER TOO OLD

WE HEARD the other day of a gentleman rather strong—but erroneous—conviction. Seems that some of the Chamber Survey people were trying to convince him that tuberculosis is communicable or "catching." The gentleman waxed emphatic:

"No, sir! Know a fellow whose wife had TB for years. He distasteful, but I ain't TB isn't catching. You can contract it. But you can't catch it."

Well, he was wrong, of course. TB is catching and it kills more people every year than any other communicable disease. Most people are aware of that. But, when some people make up their mind on a matter of that sort, it's pretty hard to convince them otherwise. The idea of the particularly widespread belief that you can be "so old to have TB."

The belief is unfounded, as thousands of old folks can unhappily testify. But if there happens to be among your readers some who think they're too old to be about tuberculosis or to take the trouble to get a chest X-ray film, then consider a recent report on lung cancer, which can be detected by chest X-rays, by Dr. Charles C. Cameron, Medical and Scientific Director and Vice-President of the American Cancer Society.

"The incidence of lung cancer," writes Dr. Cameron, "is increasing at an astonishing rate—far exceeding that of any other form of cancer." And, he says, lung cancer is rare before 40, in fact, 88 per cent of all lung cancers found in a recent study occurred in individuals over 50.

It becomes obvious therefore, that if more persons in older age groups take part in chest X-ray surveys, more early cancer can be found.

"Most patients with lung cancer," Dr. Cameron writes, "wait until pain, cough, bloody sputum, weight loss, fever and sometimes shortness of breath occur before they seek help."

By that time cure is very difficult. "It is not likely today," he writes, "that more than

THE POLL TAX

AFTER TRYING to look at the thing from all angles, we see little virtue in a constitutional amendment to abolish the poll tax as a requirement for voting.

True, it would be better than an act of Congress striking down the poll tax in the five Southern states where it still is used to inequality Negro voters. It would be better because it would be constitutional, whereas an act of Congress would be of dubious constitutionality.

The poll tax is wrong, and we believe strongly that it is wrong. It would be abolished by the states on their own initiative, without any compulsion by Congress, by a constitutional amendment, or by any other authority if there be any.

Virtue, as Lord Houghton said, lies in the struggle, not the prize. If it is the right of a state to levy a poll tax as a requirement for voting, it is surely the responsibility of a state to abolish the tax. The South will answer its critics more effectively, and assuage its own conscience more completely, by eliminating this unfair voting requirement without outside compulsion.

QUARTER OF AN HOUR

THE REASON that truth is stranger than fiction is because writers know just how far they can test the credulity of their readers, and they know that some of the things that really happen to people were believed up as fiction they would not be dressed. Especially when it's a matter of 15 minutes.

Two recent cases in the news, both having to do with murder, prove again that old adage. And in each case, fate played the law and courts of justice, justly punished the guilty.

One case occurred in New York City. A man awoke one morning convinced that he had murdered a woman by strangulation. He attempted suicide by gas. Neighbors smelled the gas and revived him. He was found dead but broken down 15 minutes later. He lived, and confessed a murder. An autopsy showed that his companion had died of natural causes. The man today is free, free of a jail cell, free of a suicide's ravage, free in his own mind of the crime of murder. Luck TB alone balanced the scales in his favor.

The other case occurred in England. Two young men, one 19, the other 16, joined in a robbery attempt. The 19-year-old was named Bentley, his companion was named Craig. During the robbery, Bentley was collared by police 15 minutes before Craig shot and killed an officer.

Both Bentley and Craig were tried for and convicted of murder. Craig, who fired the shot, escaped with a jail sentence because of his young age. Bentley, who was in custody of the police a quarter hour before the murder, went to the gallows as an accessory.

Call it what you will but strange things do happen when strange things collide. These two cases where a quarter of an hour made the difference between a youth every-one knew had killed no one, and where a matter of an hour did save a man who thought he had committed murder, but hadn't, prove once again that man can spin the wheel of fortune but he cannot call its numbers.

Bentley is the good loser. And there are others who bury the hatchet, after marking the spot clearly and with a future reference.—Richmond Times-Duplex.

From The Wall Street Journal