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TUESDAY, MARCH 10, 1953

THE FAT'S IN THE FIRE

IT IS TOO BAD THAT Dr. N. L. Engelhardt's report to the City School Board ran to such great length. Few newspaper readers had the time or patience to read it from beginning to end.

The evidence does not, however, support the broad charge that public money has been wasted by the school boards just to prettify our school buildings.

The News has followed this issue from the first. For weeks we have pointed out the important question involved: how to spend the money.

But we do have convictions in the matter—convictions derived from a detailed and honest study of the evidence offered by the prosecution and by the defense.

In our opinion, the defendants are simply not guilty, on the evidence, of the charge of wastefulness leveled against them.

MECKLENBURG'S HIGH HONOR

THE American Heritage Foundation's first-place citation in this newspaper reads: "For the most intensive and most effective non-partisan register-and-vote campaign by a newspaper in cities with a population between 100,000 and 150,000."

The voters of Mecklenburg County put the campaign to rest. From Joe Joseph, who headed the campaign, down through the hundreds of volunteer workers who rang doorbells, distributed posters, and got their neighbors registered and to the polls, the citizens of Mecklenburg and the members of the school boards have come out of this unfortunate experience with their reputations unimpaired.

As a result of the award, the citizens of Mecklenburg County are proud of the thousands of good citizens who helped elect it.

VIRGINIA CRACKS DOWN ON SPEEDERS

THE VIRGINIA motorists often come back from a highway with a tale to tell of their "wrench out" for those Virginia highway cops. They'll get you for speeding if you're not careful.

Motor Vehicles show the worth of the law, and the potential value of a similar law in North Carolina. During January, Virginia suspended for 60 days the licenses of 213 persons who had been convicted of speeding twice within the preceding 12 months.

This Virginia has gone after the license speeders in the highway. And we'll bet this crusade against all speeders will result in a decrease in the state's highway accidents.

Highway safety involves many things—speed regulation, vehicle inspection, driver technique, highway maintenance, law enforcement, highway safety, in sum, lies in stern law, rigorously enforced.

When Virginia's strengthened law went into effect last year, motorists howled. They thought it would be too rough. But the figures so recently released by the state's Division of

THESE MINOR HEADACHES STALIN CAUSED

THESE days most everyone is discussing the alternatives and possibilities that result from the death of Joseph Stalin. But today we'd like to wonder and worry a bit about the little problems that follow the dictator's decease.

And we wonder what Budu Svandice will do for a living now. He, you recall, just wrote a book entitled My Uncle Joseph Stalin. It sold well and he's busy on another one about his uncle, which won't be of much interest now. Equal to his distress will be that of magazine writers whose dissertations on Stalin's good health are already on the presses.

And what will happen to Vassily, Stalin's son who rapidly rose to be a general in the Soviet Air Force? With his dad gone, imperative in his cockpit procedure or administrative procedure may be necessary.

Then there's the port picture hangers. From Murmannk to Petropavlovsk pictures of the new leader must go alongside the pictures of Lenin and Stalin. Ah, the magnificent minor problems of installing a new dictator.

WATCH SOUTH CAROLINA

NORTH CAROLINA, as we have been saying, could learn quite a few tricks from South Carolina in the art of getting new industry. South Carolina is doing the most effective work along that line of any state we know.

signed testimonials to their delight at having discovered South Carolina and been victoriously blessed by it. It all sounds like an old-fashioned revival meeting. (Their ads probably paid for the section, too.)

North Carolinians used to thank God for South Carolina, but times have changed and contented capitalists are giving thanks for Wake up, North Carolina.

A newspaper may not be as good as the subscriber wants it, but one thing is more certain: it is never as good as the publisher wants it. Elizabethan (Ky.) News.

'You Follows Heard About Pearl Harbor Yet?'



Hot Political Issue

Housing Program Faces Test

BY CONGRESSIONAL QUARTERLY

IN 1937, President Franklin D. Roosevelt described a one-third of the nation as "ill-housed." In 1953 his fellow Democrat, outgoing President Harry S. Truman, said "the one-third has been reduced to one-fifth."

Whether the new Republican-controlled Congress agrees and, if it does, what steps it will take to reduce the fraction remain in question. Finding the answers will claim considerable Congressional attention before 1955. Some revamped programs may result.

This may be a critical year in determining the extent of federal aid to housing, a Congressional Quarterly analysis indicates. The question of federal aid to housing will be a well-trodden one.

President Eisenhower has his Advisory Committee on Government Organization working on plans to streamline federal operations. The newly appointed housing administrator has promised a "comprehensive study" of the housing agencies.

Both men voted to delete the low-cost public housing provision from the 1949 act, but Capehart voted for small passage of the public housing bill while Wolcott offered a motion in the House to recommit, and then passed passage of the act.

housing agencies is the fact that the present GOP Administration has stressed "decentralization" of some federal programs, as opposed to centralization which took place under the Democrats.

In its party platform, the GOP's emphasis has been on private construction. In 1952 the GOP platform called for federal housing aid "only where there is a need" that private enterprise can not meet.

FHA authority to issue mortgages for military housing and mortgages for housing in critical defense areas. Veterans Administration authority to make direct four per cent housing loans in areas where private funds are not available.

Under the "critical" defense housing program begun in 1951, the Public Housing Administration has been assigned 16,140 units of temporary defense housing for construction, of which 8,270 have been started or rehabilitated and 6,000 completed.

Among other housing issues that may catch the attention of Congress is a proposal to extend to Hawaii and Guam the kind of expanded federal housing program that has been operating in the States.

Local swains wishing to pay romantic tribute might be cautious about emulating the famous photographer Elliot Elisofon, who is quoted in the news as saying of Ava Gardner: "To me she is the most beautiful subject. I would even snap a gorilla to photograph her."—Portsmouth (Va.) Star.

Stalin Considered Designer Of New Soviet Government

BY JOSEPH & STEWART ALSOP

WASHINGTON READING the riddle of the Soviet government's emergence as a fashionable game for many a long day. Only very tentative answers are given, as yet, by a small group of American experts who truly know the Kremlin and its personalities.

First, Georgi Malenkov is Chief of State but not at yet dictator. He is the most powerful, but not as yet tyrannical, boss, but not as yet suggests an intricately adjusted balance of power, which may break down.

Third, the design has plainly been made with particular deference to the Red Army, which may conceivably play a major role in any breakdown of the power structure, as armies often do in tyrant-states.

The new design with these peculiarities is a few days old. It has been the personal handiwork of Stalin. It is too complex to have been produced in a few days. It is the result of long and arduous meetings, in the anxious atmosphere of Stalin's death chamber.

The light of the design is not as yet clearly because this is regarded as a time of emergency. Stalin himself stayed in the shadows of the war, but he assumed formal responsibility as Soviet chief of state, in 1945.

the same manner, his former subordinates have now emerged from Stalin's death, to take formal responsibility for their respective shares of the vast state organization.

What has happened must be better for Stalin's generation. Of Stalin's death, to take formal responsibility for their respective shares of the vast state organization.

The main lines of power are laid by Malenkov, who has the recognized chief of state and stands at the head of the state bureaucracy; by Bulganin, who has behind him the Red Army, Air Force and Fleet under his control.

Ruark Gets An Elephant, Pink And Heavy With Ivory

BY ROBERT C. RUARK

ISIOLO, NORTHERN KENYA LIKE I was saying, this big ugly elephant was bright pink. He had a sore foot. He also had two other bright pink elephants with him.

When one or two old elephants are being, are ousted from the herd, they take this pink elephant to teach him all they've learned over 75 or a hundred years.

EVERYONE BUSHED It was the very first morning out of camp after a rough go combination of Ruark and Men Mu.

HERE HE COMES He moved out of the bush and into his car. His ears went out, his tusks came up, and he looked toward us. We had to let him come, because there was nothing to do but wait.

It was too good for me, too. And for the good Bwana Selby, who was feeling as well as I am and who found his pink elephant first out of the box is a little strenuous.

Quote, Unquote Local swains wishing to pay romantic tribute might be cautious about emulating the famous photographer Elliot Elisofon, who is quoted in the news as saying of Ava Gardner: "To me she is the most beautiful subject. I would even snap a gorilla to photograph her."—Portsmouth (Va.) Star.

More Psychological Warfare Needed Now

Drew Pearson's Merry-Go-Round

AS a result of Stalin's death, the Eisenhower administration has decided, at least for the time being, to reverse one of its campaign pledges regarding Soviet Russia.

Iron Curtain Propaganda

FOR about five years, this columnist has harped on the idea, probably to the boredom of readers, that time is running against the United States and the free world in the cold war.

Unrest In Russia HERE are some of the facts to be considered: It is well known that unrest is rampant inside the satellite countries.

All of this points to the problem of penetrating the Iron Curtain with effective propaganda to people in the satellite countries. As a small laboratory test of penetrating the curtain, this columnist went to the edge of the Czechoslovakia border in the summer of 1951.

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