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SECURITY ISSUE COMES INTO FOCUS

NOW that both House and Senate Appropriations Committees have given their reports on bills to repeal the state's new "secrecy" law, it is safe to assume that the measure will remain on the books for another biennium at least. There may be an effort to get a minority report to the floor, but it cannot possibly pass their house.

After two days of public hearings on the repeal measure, the issue has been put in sharper focus. Proponents of the repeal measure, who speak in Thursday, based the argument on the people's right to full information about their state's General Assembly—the "right to know" which, in a world of shrinking information, is assuming a place alongside the written freedoms of speech, religion, free assembly, and press of the Bill of Rights.

There were variations on the theme. There were admissions that executive sessions of legislative bodies might be more "efficient." But proponents of the repeal measure agreed that the preservation of democratic institutions would be better served by the slower, more cumbersome open sessions. Those who spoke yesterday in favor of repeal were unanimous in their conviction that their confessions on two general premises: (1) that legislative bodies have an inherent right to fix their own rules for conducting public business, a right buttressed by a wealth of precedent and in the U. S. Congress and in other state legislatures; and (2) that a part of the press, at least, is not always fair, accurate, and unbiased in reporting public business.

Assuming that these are "honest disclosures, honestly arrived at," to paraphrase Wilson's oft-quoted reference to open covenants, the final judgment on this issue, as on all other matters, must rest with the people. For our part, we have never challenged the right of the General Assembly to authorize closed hearings of its committees by statute or by rule. There is no power to prevent the Legislature from shutting the doors on meetings of either house, for that matter. We have questioned the wisdom of executive sessions, and we stand by the conviction that the public's interest will be best served if the public's business is transacted in the open where anyone and everyone can see.

THE TRAVELER

HE USED TO BE front-page news, every time he spoke or went for a ride or cracked a joke. Now, once in a while, deep in the inside pages of a newspaper, we see a little story that tells of Adlai Stevenson's travels through Asia.

His relations to the inside pages hasn't dulled his wit. He's traveling, he says, "for reasons beyond his control," finds himself temporarily unemployed. Nor has it dulled his perceptiveness, the astute politician who has seen the inside of the White House and Korea indicates that he listens more to the

THE FARMER TURNS DETECTIVE

DOWN from the prairies of the vast Northwest comes a development in criminal-agricultural science that, matches, for sheer ingenuity, the exploits of Charlotte's Chief Littlejohn. They're nose-printing cows in South Dakota.

It is a coup de poche. Justly accused of rustling in the old days might not have swung had this technique been developed earlier. The new method, developed to counter the upsurge in farm thievery, is based on the fact that any two cows' noses are as different as, say, your and Lucky Luciano's fingerprints. Just wipe the hay of Bossie's nose, ink it, apply blotting paper, and you have a print almost as good as those in J. Edgar Hoover's files.

MR. WILLIAM B. UMSTEAD

WHAT EVER associates call a man before he gets to be governor—or Charley—is "most universally" known as Charley. He takes office at least in public print and on public occasions; and usually at all other times, this is highly proper.

I never heard Mr. Hoey called Clyde. Broughton called Melville or Charley called George while they were in office. They were not chummy handles. In spite of his much-heralded informality, Governor Scott's given name also did not encourage familiarity.

But now we have a governor named Bill, and you may already have detected people continuing, against tradition, good manners and decency, to refer to the chief executive by his nickname. Being somewhat of an authority on the matter, I feel free to advise Governor Umstead that he will have to travel to high places to rid himself of that nickname. Sometimes I think people have some phobia which restrains them from giving to a man a name that is as good as their own. They yield to a man named Mortimer or Harry. However, these reflections came late in life. I always thought the nickname would be lived down. But as the years slipped by, my own experience, a tendency to grow old and decreas all same to be, they were not accompanied by Mister or anything resembling Hoover's files.

I filed into my 30's, topped the 40's. All around were my contemporaries and old

Nor would we, for one moment, deny the allegation that some newspapers report, accidentally or deliberately, in the presentation of news. First, they are written and produced by human beings. And they partake of all the faults of human nature. Second, every freedom, including freedom of the press, has been abused at one time or another.

This argument, however, is beside the point. The issue would be precisely the same if, instead of the other day, had a single lay citizen—a plain taxpayer, if you please—been ejected from the Appropriations Subcommittee hearing.

Even if it were to the point, however, it presents a novel and interesting aspect. Those of us who have dealt with politicians (in the lofter sense of the word) find it unusual, to say the least, for them to prescribe rules of accuracy, fairness, truth, completeness and lack of bias for others. The truth of the matter is that this Carolina Assembly is piqued at one North Carolina newspaper—the Raleigh News & Observer—for the way it reports legislative hearings. It is not the newspaper's honesty, but the way it reports legislative hearings that is the issue. Much of what was said on the floor of the House last month, and much of what was said in the hearings this week, was aimed at the News & Observer, though few legislators called the paper by name.

In lashing out at one newspaper, the General Assembly has shut all the newspapers and all the people of the state from the news of its proceedings. This may be "an unfortunate situation," as several speakers noted yesterday. It may also be a fortunate situation, in that it has drawn sharply, for the first time in this state's modern history, a basic issue that the people, in the final analysis, must rule upon. With ample precedent in Congress and in other states on their side, proponents of "secrecy" may profitably ponder the fact that the North Carolina General Assembly, within the framework of its fine traditions, its honesty and its excellence, has never before found it necessary to spe other legislative bodies which, in many respects, are less open to government than honest, and less productive of good government than North Carolina's General Assembly has been.

he speaks, that when he does speak he creates a most favorable impression among his listeners.

We suppose that upon his return Americans will again hear much of Adlai Stevenson, possibly more than some want to hear. At least, he will be in half way round the globe, it is worth noting that a defeated Presidential candidate, not purged, imprisoned, nor exiled but rather broadening his horizons, returning to his native land, will dispel some doubts and misconceptions about the U. S. in Asia.

terpart, the wheat thief, is being thwarted too, in Montana, where they're "branding" wheat. The owner mixes some numbered corn with his grain. His numbers are as unshakable as a row of 13's for a neighbor who is caught with them in his bin.

Time was when all a farmer had to know was how to plough a good furrow and milk his cow. Now he has to be a mechanic, electrician, veterinarian, soil conservationist (it helps if he's a lawyer and tax expert)—and even a detective.

But the new knowledge seems to have paid off. It wasn't many years ago that both cows and their owners were being hauled away. The resurgence of the rustler indicates the treasures on the nation's farms and ranches.

Bill Sharpe In The State Magazine

classmates, risen inevitably to misters, captains, sirs, and I-ogey-you-pardons. My job was as good as theirs, and my general circumstances and behavior not noticeably different, but I stayed in the Bill class right on.

Then the middle 40's, and here in my late 40's it has become obvious that it will be as good as theirs, and my general circumstances and behavior not noticeably different, but I stayed in the Bill class right on.

Some years ago, a bit baffled by this familiarity, I commenced the practice of never calling a new acquaintance by his first name, regardless of the circumstances. This policy only resulted in humiliation because it was hampered home to vigorous relatives of mine in the position of mistering college sophomores, who, within five minutes were blithely Billing me I know over the top.

The only people I ever who don't call me Bill are my children and our maid and a couple of calculating book salesmen. I want to say to you, Mr. Umstead, don't let the bars down. Don't answer when anyone calls you Bill; if you do, you'll never be to the kind of governor this state is accustomed to.

'Who's Got Hold Of What Here?'



OFFSHORE RESOURCES DEBATE



Major Tax Revision Considered

Humphrey's \$14 Billion Headache

By JOSEPH & STEWART ALTON

Folsom has significantly pointed out, Canada collects proportionately less as much from indirect taxation—taxes on consumer goods—as the United States. The proportion in Great Britain is even higher, and many British excise taxes were imposed or increased by the Socialist government.

Humphrey for Sales Tax SECRETARY HUMPHREY is reliably reported to favor a uniform national sales tax on all articles other than absolute essentials like food and clothing. It is hardly conceivable, as the Treasury men are well aware, that a straight sales tax could be passed by Congress. But Humphrey and those around him have certainly considered other forms of indirect taxation—like a tax paid directly by the manufacturer, every article he makes.

In its simplest terms, this is the problem. A whole series of post-Korea emergency taxes expire within the next 12 months. The pressure in Congress for tax reduction is so strong that about the best the Administration seems likely to do is to prevent these taxes from being cut back before their expiration date. The first Eisenhower Administration budget, which is now being prepared, starts on June 30, 1954. The prospective tax cut-backs will reduce government revenue for that year, by a whopping \$8 billion.

On straight economic grounds, some such shift in the tax base may make a great deal of sense, in a time of very high taxation—that is a matter for the economist to argue. But there is no argument on one point. Nineteen fifty-four, when Humphrey and those around him would like to see Congress renege the tax cuts in an election year, are the political equivalent of nuclear fission. The notion of substituting increased indirect taxes for the personal and corporate taxes which are due to expire fills even the most conservative members of Congress with downright terror.

Political Dynamite THESE unpleasant facts suggest why Secretary Humphrey and those around him believe that the time has come when the whole American tax structure is going to have to be rebuilt from the ground up. This rebuilding process, moreover, will have all the explosive political implications. The American tax system, so the Treasury argument runs, has grown from crisis to crisis until it is now a good of monstrous quality. During the last 20 years, moreover, taxes have repeatedly been imposed for essentially political purposes and reduced to zero when political purposes had changed the political system.

To vote for such a shift in the tax base would expose any politician to the charge of "favoring the rich at the expense of the poor." Certainly it is wise and right for the new men in the Treasury to have gone hard on the American tax system. But as a practical political matter, it seems highly unlikely that the tax system is going to be changed in any radical way during an election year. Thus Humphrey and the other administration leaders are going to have to look elsewhere for a solution to their \$14 billion dilemma. In this situation, the danger is clear. It is that the Administration, departing of finding any other way to bring the budget into some sort of balance, will cut over and lights out of the already inadequate American defenses.

It is now clear, moreover, that the post-war crisis is not a permanent—but a miracle, a very heavy proportion of the national income is going to have to be drained away by the government for a generation. It is time, therefore, so runs the argument, to ask the question: How can we finance the greatest possible reduction of long pull, with the least damage to the American economy?

The two cannibals divided the personal effects of the important speech in their own language and urge that it be mailed to every country in Europe.

The Treasury man have not yet come up with a concrete program in answer to this question. But the trend of their thinking is perfectly clear. It is toward a shift in the direct taxation. The Treasury men argue that it is direct taxation that tends to "kill initiative," to stigmatize the risk capital needed for industrial expansion.

There's drudgery in cleaning out bureaucracy, says a newsletter. For 20 years the White House hasn't been one to bear a drudge.—St. Louis Globe-Democrat.

Drew Pearson's Merry-Go-Round

SOMETIMES private citizens can do almost as well as much about peace as their government, sometimes almost a little more.

Quote, Unquote

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It is now clear, moreover, that the post-war crisis is not a permanent—but a miracle, a very heavy proportion of the national income is going to have to be drained away by the government for a generation. It is time, therefore, so runs the argument, to ask the question: How can we finance the greatest possible reduction of long pull, with the least damage to the American economy?

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This important gesture by Eli Progress will have greater effect than might appear on the surface. For the chief slogan of the Communists in Italy and elsewhere is that the United States is the world's chief warmonger, while Soviet Russia is the chief champion of peace. This theme has been hammered home so vigorously that a lot of people really believe it.

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Therefore, to have Americans of Italian descent mail copies of Eisenhower's inspiring speech back to Italy is extremely important. Its importance lies in the fact that it will come from one friend relative to another, not from a government.

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U.N. Status For Mao Seen As Part Of Far East Settlement

By MARQUIS CHILDS

UNITED NATIONS, N. Y. THE DISTANCE from this important city that is situated in a great cube of glass and steel above New York's East River, rising from the site of a former attack in Korea is very great. In relation to the question of peace in Asia, the distance is not so great as it is politically as it is geographically.

It would mean, furthermore, that the United States would cease supplying the Nationalist Chinese on Formosa with the purpose of attacking them in an attack on mainland. In other words, this would mean shutting down not two or three but all of the arms in Asia but all of them. Formosa and Chiang Kai-shek would go under some form of trusteeship.

If peace is finally to be achieved in the Far East, it will have to be evolved out of the deliberations of a widely body that has suffered from so much frustration and indecision. Even the proposal raised in session, the General Assembly will recess rather than adjourn so that it may come back in an effective notice.

But those here who try to see the trees as well as the forest are not unimpressed of the report raised in Washington when it was reported that Secretary of State John Foster Dulles was even considering such a solution for Formosa. They heard the cry of "appeasement" at the idea of a Korea divided NOT at the 38th parallel but at the waist of the peninsula, which would give the South Koreans public and political advantage. The result would be a stalemate. The result would be a stalemate. The result would be a stalemate.

The resolution winding up the meeting provides that if an armistice is achieved, the President of the Assembly, Lester Pearson of Canada, can call for a vote to be held immediately. Even without a cease-fire the members themselves can initiate a new session to deal with questions of major importance.

Whether the leaders of his party in the Senate will support such an armistice is a question that will be answered by the House of Representatives. The Majority Leader, Sen. Robert A. Taft, has already said in an interview that he would support an armistice in Korea, it is the President who should be settled in "one bite."

LONG WAY APART

While the distance is short, geographically between the U. N. on the East River and Washington on the Potomac, the two are worlds separated by a very great gulf, politically speaking. In fact, looking at the distance between the two, one must acknowledge the possibility that it cannot be bridged.

While the American stand on China and Formosa was hardened as a result of the flurry over what Dulles did or did not say, the possibility of a trust in the United States is not ruled out here. This, it is envisioned, might come as the first phase of an armistice. The larger and more difficult considerations deliberately excluded.

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