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EISENHOWER OPENS INFORMATION DOORS

Men may be governed by reason and truth. Our first object should therefore be to leave open to him all the avenues to truth. The most effectual hitherto found is the freedom of the press.

In his announced plan for revising former President Truman's controversial security classification order, President Eisenhower has shown a deepening insight into the importance of free information in a free society.

Mr. Truman's blanket order, denounced in the press and in Congress as a "gag," gave all Federal agency executives authority to withhold information on what they believed to be security information.

Mr. Eisenhower proposes to change all that. First, 29 of the agencies in non-sensitive fields will be stripped of any power whatsoever to withhold information about their work from the public.

Ordinarily executive orders are not made public before they are issued formally. This time, the White House has decided to make the proposed draft in order that it may be studied by interested persons and organiza-

tions, and further suggestions received.

President Eisenhower merits the commendation of all the American people for this new approach to the problem of classifying security information.

The important thing is to keep classified information at an irreducible minimum in order to preserve the people's Right to Know.

Alberto Gattina Par, the editor of La Prensa, spoke from his experience with the Peron government in Argentina when he told an American audience recently:

"The first act of any dictatorship is to suppress freedom of information. If they can't make a frontal attack against the press, they try in insidious ways to capture and restrict that freedom of information... The only way to oppose these forces is to defend freedom of information... The defense should not be confined to newspapermen only. The public as a whole must realize that it is a matter of vital concern for them."

His warning has meaning for Americans, and all free peoples everywhere.

ON REPORTING TO PUBLIC SHAREHOLDERS

There came across the desk this other day a small, four-page printed folder addressed to the owners of Carter County.

It was a simplified version of the financial statement furnished the Board of County Commissioners by the County auditor, and it was mailed to all taxpayers along with their 1953 tax statement.

Among other things, the pamphlet gave a brief history of Carter's recent financial history, explained how the spending budget is divided, and listed the assets and liabilities of the county government.

This week the City of Greenville, S. C., made a considerable improvement in the way it reports to its taxpayers. An eight-page tabloid supplement of the Greenville Piedmont reported in full detail, with many charts and pictures, on the city's first year under the City Manager form of government.

Both reports treat the taxpayers as stock-

holders in a public enterprise, and seek to enlighten their understanding and support in the problem of financing needed public service.

We pass this information along to the Charter City of Greenville to the Board of Commissioners of Mecklenburg County as a suggestion that they do and likewise.

The inherent strength of democratic government is derived from the information that the people have about their government. On a day by day basis, the newspapers report on public affairs as comprehensively as time and space permit. But it would be a good idea, once a year, to put together a concise summary of local government activities.

Such a policy, we are quite confident, would produce dividends in terms of better understanding and stronger support for these public services furnished by the local governments.

MARTYR, EXPOSER, COMMENTATOR, ETC. ETC.

Big news was breaking fast. The Rosenberg case was dramatically approaching a climax. Peace impended in Korea, only to be imperiled by South Korean violence.

Press agents have horrified nightmares about days like that. The best-laid plans of calculating publicists go awry when big news breaks.

Ab, but all this didn't phase the Wisconsin whizzeroo. Faced with the horrifying, to him, prospect of being crowded off the front pages, Senator McCarthy staged a show, thus consuming the time of the Government Operations Committee, at which a man said he once heard another man say that the Communist Party Liquidator Senator McCarthy, And he valiantly came to the defense of the small businessman, announcing he will investigate alleged "gross discrimination" against them.

From The Durham Herald

A SKIRMISH OVER BRANDING BOOKS

SAN ANTONIO is having a battle about books. Some want to identify books written by Communists, fellow-travelers, and persons who have been affiliated with organizations classified as subversive.

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The psychiatrists have phrases for his type. So, too, do the poets. As Shakespeare noted, "The poet's task is to give names to the things upon itself," and "By the strength of their illusion, shall draw him by his own confusion."

One wonders how far fear of communism will take some people. The San Antonio book-branding proposal only shows the thoughtless and irresponsible nature of those who check out the branded books.

Maybe the argument will get San Antonio folk to read more. After all, if a book is worth branding, maybe it's worth reading.

The Legislature has passed a bill making it a crime to sell, buy or use, in a public place, for a certain state, both the cabbage and the palm seen appropriate.

The Senator is now getting frequent blood transfusions and is taking liver pills to overcome the anemia, together with certain to repair the damage done to the bone.

The Fermenting Grapes Of Wrath

Oilmen To Sponsor National

Show Featuring McCarthy

By MARQUIS CHILDS



WASHINGTON (AP)—An arrangement has just been made by which the House of Representatives will sponsor a national television show featuring McCarthy.

From a source considered by this reporter to be reliable, confirmation has been obtained of a contract which was obtained by a group of Texas whose oil wealth was used to finance the show.

The important fact, however, is that the agreement has been reached specifying a large sum of money. The principal oil names in the contract as reported to be that of H. Hunt of Dallas, Texas.

It is believed that the principals to deny it at this time, so great is the confusion surrounding the arrangement.

During a visit to Washington some weeks ago, Hunt talked with McCarthy. Then he started recruiting members of his investigating

committee he was being hunted, made by the State Department. There he met with Hunt, Clinton Murchison and others whose resources in oil give them the power beyond almost any other group in America today.

Candidate Eisenhower supported the plan by which the State Department, California, Texas and Louisiana, off whose shores rich deposits of oil have been found, are giving this wealth over to the states, contrary to Supreme Court decisions which have long held that such holdings belonged to the Federal Government.

Oil men pressing through a powerful lobby for the transfer are said to have indicated that the transfer would stand. They generously supported the Republican campaign in many states, and have now indicated their Texas, you are with us all the way.

The commingling of oil and politics has in the past produced some strange results. With McCarthy's leadership, the favored States should be little short of explosive.

People's Platform

Eisenhower Abdicating Party Leadership To His Enemies

By JOSEPH & STEWART ALSOP

Letters should be brief. The writer's name and address must be given, but may be withheld from publication in the discretion of the Editors. The News reserves the right to condense.

Godless Education Incomplete

CHARLOTTE EDITORS: THE NEWS: In writing this letter I am presenting my disagreement with reader Cahill and all like him who oppose the present system of teaching religion in Charlotte schools.

The child and his parents will have the right to decide what religious instruction the child will receive, so therefore the classes will but no one, and will do a great deal of good inasmuch as many receive no religious instruction in the home or at church, and much religious training is needed.

Be it in God is the foundation, the very essence of education. The purpose of education is to prepare young people to meet the trials and hardships of the world which will sound souls, minds and bodies they can become the future ideal citizens of a better world and later inhabit heaven.

Teaching without God is not complete education. Do we not want our children to have an education that is complete? If so, why not keep God in the schools?

—EDWARD DEAN BROWN JR.

Hoarah For The Baptists

CHARLOTTE EDITORS: THE NEWS: The Baptist ministers should be enthusiastically commended for their action against the private teaching of the Bible in our public schools.

Those who favor the continuation of the present Bible teaching program should consider how they would feel if the "unbiased" teaching of the Bible was sponsored by a predominantly Catholic, Jewish or Unitarian community.

—MARY LOU WHEELER

Stigmatized Or Damed?

HAMLET EDITORS: THE NEWS: I WONDER if the ministers and citizens who oppose Bible teaching in our schools are stopping to think of the thousands of children with parents who do not believe in Christ or the Messiah, and will never hear Him in the home.

One writer is afraid a child would be stigmatized if he took Bible instruction. It would rather be sent to eternal punishment for lack of Bible knowledge.

—MAGDALENE JENKINS

A Presbyterian Puzzled

CHARLOTTE EDITORS: THE NEWS: I have been reading with profound concern and interest that various individuals are trying to stop the teaching of the Bible in our schools in Charlotte.

It is extremely painful and the Senator is understandably irritable at times. While at Walter Reed Hospital he had the doctors say a dinner had been an energetic man all his life, he is also a patient. Doctors say that what he needs more than anything else is plenty of rest.

Sweetness And Light

CHARLOTTE EDITORS: ALL of political complexion met around the dinner table with CIO chief Walter Reuther last week for an evening of such sweetness and light that the Republican Senator, Hon. Hiram Bingham, complained: "There's not enough light."

Present at the meeting were not merely liberal Democratic Senators friendly to the CIO, but such conservatives as Richard Russell of Georgia, Lyndon Johnson of Texas, plus Vice President Nixon and various Republicans.

Drew Pearson's Merry-Go-Round

WASHINGTON THE unfortunate fact about Senator Taft's health is that he has been suffering from both anemia and deterioration in the high-bone and hip-joint areas.

Changed Capehart

SENATOR Democrat LeRoy Johnson of Texas asked Reuther about the reciprocal trade. The CIO boss replied that if might have some industries but that the overall effect was good.

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