

THE CHARLOTTE NEWS

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THE STATE OF THE UNION

THE President's State of the Union address yesterday reinforces the opinion that, by and large, he plans to go down the middle way, smiling more frequently at the Democrats on his left than at some of the rightists in his own party.

He favors continued federal participation in housing, slum clearance, public conservation projects, including those which involve production of water power, "wherever these projects are beyond the capacity of local initiative."

He favors exchange of atomic secrets with allies, although he limited this endorsement to exchange of data on "tactical use of nuclear weapons."

He favors U. S. participation, along with Canada, in completion of the St. Lawrence Seaway.

He wants to hold off on cuts in corporate and excise taxes, wisely deciding to give further expense reduction priority over further tax reduction.

THE President did not spell out his views on many major issues. Instead, he capsuled them, and laid out a timetable for delivery of detailed information. Monday he will present his labor and agriculture programs. His remarks yesterday on labor were too brief and vague to indicate what his recommendations will be. His agriculture program, it appears, will involve a gradual increase in the flexibility of price supports.

Then on Jan. 18 he will present the administration health program. The budget message, scheduled for Jan. 21, will include among other things 25 recommended tax changes, including proposals for more liberal tax treatment for dependent children who work, widows or widowers with dependent children, medical expenses and for expanding businesses.

A special message on housing is slated for Jan. 25. The economic report and special messages will delineate proposed fiscal policy. Other promised recommendations will deal with the federal security set-up, military reserve policy and creation of a healthier and freer system of trade and payments within the free world.

There were at least two regrettable omissions in his speech. He did not renew his request of last year for a review of this nation's discriminatory immigration laws. And, while he advocated statehood

for Hawaii, he did not mention Alaska, which is also desiring.

He made one new proposal. He suggested that citizenship should be stripped from anyone convicted in the future of conspiring to advocate violent overthrow of the government. Full appraisal of that idea must await its elaboration. But our hunchback opinion is that such a law, like Attorney General Brownell's requests for admissibility of wiretap evidence and granting of immunity to talkative witnesses (which they already have in practice), would be an example of locking—and cluttering up—the barn after the horse is stolen.

After all, if a sometimes lax Democratic administration was able to keep the nation from being subverted during the period of greatest danger, certainly this vigilant new team, using the tools at hand, ought to be able to control internal subversion now that its greater danger is long past. As the President noted in talking about agriculture, laws no longer useful are still on the books, and hamper the government now. Likewise, unnecessary laws dealing with past subversion attempts could produce more red tape than Reds.

THE President we believe was correct in claiming that one of the most significant changes of the past year lies in the fact that the free world, led by the U. S., has gained the initiative in the struggle against communism. There have been two other changes which are significant, although he did not emphasize them.

First, while continuing to give at least lip service to NATO, Mr. Eisenhower and Secretary of State Dulles play down the Atlantic community concept promulgated by former President Truman and former Secretary of State Acheson. Eisenhower and Dulles are, so to speak, putting most of their eggs in the EDC basket, demanding European instead of Atlantic unity, a policy that could lead to dangerous rifts between the U. S. and Europe.

Secondly, it appears that a basic strategic change has been decided upon, that atomic weapons and attack on heretofore "privileged sanctuaries" will be featured in any new Korean.

This change, if it truly has been decided upon, means that a would-be aggressor will not be eager to start another war. But, if war does start, it would likely develop into a full-scale war.

WHEN CURB SPACES GO, THEN WHAT?

THE most significant thing about Traffic Engineer Hoove's program for 1954 is that the gradual elimination of curbside parking will be speeded up considerably to make additional lanes available for moving vehicular traffic.

Mr. Hoove outlined plans for eliminating or restricting parking, either at all hours or during peak hours, on:

1. Elizabeth avenue from McDowell street to Cecil street;
2. Graham street, from Liddell street to Morehead street;
3. Mint street, from Trade street to Dowd road;
4. Baldwin circle, from Morehead street to Independence boulevard;
5. Independence boulevard from Elizabeth avenue to McDowell street;
6. Central avenue from Louise avenue to Thomas avenue.

The continued restriction of curb parking is inevitable in a fast-growing city as the volume of vehicular traffic increases. One automobile parked at the curb blocks the use of a full lane by hundreds of thousands of other motorists. This is neither a fair nor a practical use of streets which belong to all the taxpayers.

Yet Charlotte is the only major city we know of that is utterly blind to the need for permanent, well-placed offstreet parking facilities. One ramp parking garage has been constructed by a private operator in the past year, but it scarcely replaces the parking spaces eliminated when another and larger garage across the street was converted into an office building.

Beyond that, the only offstreet parking facilities are vacant lots leased to private operators until a more profitable use for the land comes along.

Thus goes the vicious circle. Curbside spaces are eliminated to make room for a heavier volume of traffic; yet the off-street vacant lots are being converted to sites for new buildings which increase the demand for parking space at the same

TOO MUCH OF A GOOD THING

THIS is the season of calendars. It happens every year. But it seems to be worse this year than ever before.

The floodtide of labor and envelopes starts early in December. Little plastic calendars for valets, wall calendars, desk calendars, all of different shape and size, each with more and more postal cards and planting graphs and measurement charts.

Some come adorned with fine modern art or bird prints or flower prints. Others have scenes from history or depicting American industry.

They're lovely to look at, but there are just too darn many of the things.

time they are occupying space previously used for parking.

The December issue of ARCHITECTURAL FORUM, in a roundup of "Garages Vs. Parking," describes the multi-million programs in Chicago, in Pittsburgh, in Baltimore and other cities and concludes that "The most energetic efforts to ease downtown traffic with more garages are publicly financed."

Since the end of World War II, when the parking problem reached the acute stage, the City Council has shifted off from any realistic attempt to solve the riddle. This do-nothing attitude can have but two dividends—the eventual decrease of up-town property values and the decentralization of the business district, both productive of great public service problems of an entirely different nature.

PROGRESS

WE NOTE TODAY, with some satisfaction, another sign that the nation is slowly recovering from the emotional binge often, though perhaps inaccurately, described as "national hysteria."

In Illinois, between six and eight thousand books once withdrawn from state library shelves as "salacious, vulgar or obscene" have been restored by order of Secretary of State Charles F. Carpenter. Carpenter says, a bit plaintively, that librarians were "over-zealous" in carrying out his order. If he expected them to be otherwise, he is a very naive man. Every record of opinion we once had to limit the circulation of books, no matter how high or how proper the motives, has been seized upon by frenzied zealots as an excuse for the wholesale decimation of libraries.

The original Illinois order was ill-advise. The current change appears to have been undone by the rescinding thereof.

And then there's the latest innovation—the day book for the desk.

A survey of home and office discloses that they're in every conceivable location, but still there's a surplus. And there's more to come, for sure.

Anyone needs a few spares for 1954?

The Population Reference Bureau Inc. reports that more and more Americans are moving into cities. They certainly seem to be doing it at the hours when we are trying to get to work in the morning. — GREENWOOD (Miss.) COMMONWEALTH.

'Weil, We Got Back Most Of That Missing \$160,000'



Onward Siwash F (For Football)

In Defense Of Football College

By CLIFTON FADIMAN

Mr. Fadiman, of famous "Information Please" now exclaims "This is Show Business," was famous originally as book reviewer for the New Yorker. He was also one-time editor-in-chief for Simon and Schuster.

RECENTLY a generous Texas oil man gave his university \$2,500,000, saying, "The great spirit and determination shown by the Cougars last Saturday in defeating Baylor fills me with enthusiasm and prompts me to do something for our great university."

We may note in passing that this marks a new high in undergraduate earning power. Each of the 14 Cougars (let's forget about replacements) earned for his Alma Mater \$204,545.45, or \$3,409.09 per minute of scholarship play, a record that may well make the chess team despair.

Clear Thinking

BUT what is important is the clear thinking behind the Texan's generosity. His motives may be criticized by some, but not by me. In endorsing his university exclusively for its ability on the football field he showed, I think, an accurate and honest sense of reality. And it is high time, like the Texan, we too cleared our minds of can.

Long time ago our colleges devoted themselves to the study of divinity and a few dead languages. Why? Because we Americans wanted them to. When we stopped wanting that, the colleges changed, and began to emphasize the sciences and also various techniques for earning a living. Now a great many of us—students, trustees, alumni and others—would like a further change. We would like to see the college go forward, develop, begin to devote itself mainly to the complex art and science of football. In response to this deep-seated demand, the colleges should again alter their character, and I have firm faith that they will.

The Texas oil man is not the only one to face the fact without flinching. The former All-American back Aubrey Devine, recalling his brilliant undergraduate career, puts the matter clearly: "Education was not our primary objective; it was a means to an end, a means to a particularly football. I can think of no greater praise for the game than to say that boys love it so much that they will sacrifice for it even to

the extent of acquiring a college education." I live immorally together. The situation is even more unfair to the football group than to the old fogy education group. Football should be given the status it has earned in the plain honest dollars and cents. It should no longer be thought of as I-fellow Mr. Devine here—as an anti-toxin to the poison of education.

I propose therefore that each college, taking due account of the desires of its students and the enthusiasms of potential employers, label itself "What is it so that all who run may read, or, in the case of some alumni, have it read to them. Harvard for example, would be Harvard E. (E for Education) and would attract its own kind of student, about whom the less said the better. A college which has the courage to move forward into the new era would advertise itself as Siwash F (For Football). In the latter case the curriculum should be minimum and preferably on a high-school level so as to leave the students free for their real work. The degree granted would of course be a B.F.; the doctorate would be D.F.

It is a dismal fact that though college football no longer needs any defense, the football college, as these words show, still does. It's time for a change.

There's the whistle—let's go!

Immoral Relationship

THESE two viewpoints should not be forced to live immorally together. The situation is even more unfair to the football group than to the old fogy education group. Football should be given the status it has earned in the plain honest dollars and cents. It should no longer be thought of as I-fellow Mr. Devine here—as an anti-toxin to the poison of education.

People's Platform

Church Members And Christians

Editors, THE NEWS: I READ Mr. Warren's letter in the People's Platform about whisky and who was to blame. I am sure there might have been church members who voted for ABC stores—but not Christians.

I am sure that a true Christian wouldn't vote for them.

No matter where the whisky is, if a person wants it he will find it, and if parents serve and drink it and their children have cocktail parties they are to blame.

I am no judge, but I feel sure that no Christian parents will have or live that kind of life before their children. If they do there will be many tears shed, for God holds us responsible for the way we train up our children, and if we

live for Christ and our children follow in our footsteps we won't be walking in the law worshipping and wondering where they are.

—MRS. MAYME BARGER.

Wants More Safety Patrols

Editors, THE NEWS: I TOLD you I was writing something about safety patrols. Before there were safety patrols lots of children were getting hurt and playing dangerously in the streets and roads. Now that we have safety patrols the children are not running and playing in the streets. They obey the safety patrolmen and learn the rules of being safe and playing safe. I think that there should be more safety patrols in city and county schools.

—EDDY INGRAM.

Drew Pearson's Merry-Go-Round

WASHINGTON

A LOT of people have been asking me if I was true that I had a visit with Harry Truman in Kansas City the other day, and if so, what he said to me and I said to him. The answer on point 1 is in the affirmative. The answer on point 2 is that we had an extremely pleasant talk.

If anyone was looking for fireworks I'm afraid they'll be disappointed.

I went out to Kansas City to interview Mr. Truman for a television program opening this week in which I wanted to ask him about his record for combating communism and the famous remark about "red herrings."

Since the interview, most people have seemed more interested in the personal side of the visit, doubtless remembering some differences of opinion we once had over Maj. Gen. Harry Vaughan, of whom I was critical and to whom Mr. Truman was loyal. That came up only in a very indirect manner.

Mr. Truman has a rather modest office in the Federal Reserve Bank at which he arrives just as early as he did at his desk in the White House. Though now 69 years old, he looked in the pinch of confidence, younger and more rested than he did as President. When I told him so, he replied: "I feel better than I deserve."

Around his office shelves lined chiefly with history books. "I've always read a lot of history," he said. "And

The Darn Federals Couldn't Keep The Hotel Water Hot

By FREDERICK C. OTTMAN

UNCLE SAM is getting out of the de luxe, hot waterless hotel business in the Virgin Islands, and more soon to suit me, Uncle, as mine host, put me to a good deal of trouble and expense to prove that I was not either, a liar.

I mean the new management at the Interior Department now is negotiating for sale of Bluebeard's Castle Hotel at St. Thomas in the Virgin Islands. It's the relic of the New Deal that even the New Dealers would prefer to forget. As for those Federal architects, they're still blushing.

Back in the '20's, you may remember, the late Honest Harold L. Ickes established the Virgin Islands Corp., which not only put the U. S. government briefly in the rum business, but also established the bureaucrats as hotelkeepers extraordinary.

All Ickes had to start with was a hill overlooking the town of Charlotte Amalie and the blue ocean beyond. On this knoll was an ancient stone tower with walls nearly six feet thick, which reputedly had been built by the pirate, Bluebeard.

BETTER THAN HOME? Around the tower Honest Harold and Co. decided to build a luxury hotel. This the gentlemen did, with blueprints provided by their own architects. When the hotel eventually was opened, Ickes' partisans bragged the drums about the business of it. Living in Bluebeard's Castle, they said, was better than living at home.

Well sir, as it happened, one of my old newspaper reporter friends had decided about the same time that Washington was too cold and icy for him. He took a job with the Virgin Islands Corp., and for a while rented a room in the castle.

There his reportorial instincts got the better of him. He wrote no letters at length about what he called his Caribbean boondoggle. Luxurious it was, he said, except that a fellow couldn't take a bath in it. Or even hang up his clothes.

The trouble seemed to be that this hotel had been built on solid rock and to save expenses, the builders avoided blast. The result was no place to put the boiler to heat the water in the hot water faucets. Luxury disappeared, and my man, when you have to shave in ice water.

He also said the pressing bill was something, and that Bluebeard's Castle, because there was no place to hang up the pants. Those architects, who'd spent their lives designing post offices, somehow forgot to include clothes closets in the bedrooms.

So I pounded out a piece for the papers about luxury gone wrong in far places and it hardly had hit print before Ickes was shouting at me. What else he said about me couldn't be printed; Honest Harold was a choleric bureaucrat.

CLOSET SHORTAGE There was only one thing to do. I took my vacation that year in the Virgin Islands. Still no hot water at the Bluebeard. No closets, either. The manager was grim. His clientele didn't like cold baths and he'd put in electric heaters, but they only made the water lukewarm and a little at a time. For closets he'd strung drapes across one corner of each room.

So I wrote another item about my own researches and I am pleased to report that I was one peep out of Honest Harold. Since then the hotel has been leased to a succession of operators, all of whom had better and closer troubles. Still, and all, this history did establish the islands as a resort and in the last few years a number of hotels (with hot water) have been built there. Perhaps the Castle was a good investment, after all.

Secretary of Interior Douglas McKay, in any event, has ordered it sold and somehow it pleases me as a taxpayer to be getting out of the hotel business. The new owners, maybe, can figure out how to keep the water hot.

Under Constitution, You Can't Strip A Native Of Citizenship

By JAMES MARLOW

WASHINGTON

PRESIDENT Eisenhower today was right in the middle of a fight for the program he laid down yesterday and on which he stakes the success of his Republican Party.

On Dec. 2, speaking of November's congressional elections, Eisenhower said the Republicans did not desire to retain control of Congress unless they put through a "progressive, dynamic program."

Applause interrupted him 45 times during his 54-minute state of the union message to Congress. And afterwards leaders of his party expressed the usual, expected praise.

Although he made it abundantly clear the message was only an outline of his program, and that he would fill it in rapidly with special messages, a tiny handful of members bitterly dismissed it as a "hodge-podge" full of "platitude."

But it was the opposition expressed, even by members of his own party, on some major points in his program, that served him full notice he must assert leadership to get it through.

Last year, a period of learning his job and preparing the program he produced yesterday, he may have felt he could afford to compromise on many issues.

This year, if he compromises when the opposition isn't strong enough to defeat him, then he can be accused of abdicating leadership for the sake of being liked.

Last night, as illustration of the fight ahead, he was reported busy in the White House trying to work out a compromise on the proposal of Sen. Bricker (R-Ohio) to limit the treaty-making power.

It's not at all clear Eisenhower has to compromise for it is debatable that Bricker has sufficient support to put over his idea if the Senate decides to fight him to a standstill.

Two examples of the struggle facing the President came from members of his own party, immediately after the message, on two

of the programs most important to him: Farm income tax and House Speaker Joseph Martin (R-Mass.) said he rather expects the tax program — Eisenhower pledged future tax cuts while asking postponement of scheduled reductions — "is where we will have his biggest fight."

He predicted a good part of the program would pass. But when Eisenhower suggested a program of flexible prices, tax cuts while asking instead of fixed ones, he ran into real trouble since feeling on this is divided.

Eisenhower got his biggest hand from Democrats and Republicans alike when he proposed that Communists expressed the usual, expected overthrow the government be deprived of citizenship.

If a quick poll had been taken it might have shown most members were applauding more because the idea seemed all right at the time than because they understood what they were being asked to do or how to do it.

It isn't clear now Eisenhower thinks his proposal could be carried off if Congress went to work on it.

Since the Constitution says "... persons born in the United States ... are citizens ..." one of the most highly regarded Constitutional lawyers in the House, Rep. Walter (D-Pa.) said: "The President's suggestion couldn't be carried out without a constitutional amendment."

Rep. Chauncey W. Reed (R-Ill.), chairman of the House Judiciary Committee, said he would have to handle the problem, said: "How can you take citizenship from a man born here? It can't be done."

Quote, Unquote

As the ill wind always blows some good, in the drought this summer and fall, the country's weather has been anything but ideal. The only trouble was that nature didn't provide much hay. — New Orleans States

The Other Ex-President

THE conversation drifted round to our only other living ex-President, Herbert Hoover, and the fact that he was long ignored after he left the White House.

"I was always glad," said Mr. Truman, "that I helped bring Mr. Hoover back into the public eye. I thought it was a shame the way they treated him. You may remember that I appointed him head of a commission on the crop's food needs, and later appointed him and Dean Acheson as joint heads of a commission to study the reorganization of the government. They did a fine job and I was able to get most of their recommendations approved by Congress."

He recalled to Mr. Truman that Mr. Hoover had once said an off-the-record speech at the Gridiron Club in high praise of Truman.

The other ex-president said he remembered it and added: "At the Republican convention in 1940, the Republicans asked Hoover to make the keynote speech and wanted him to smear me. When he refused, they got another speaker. Mr. Hoover told me about it himself."

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