

The 84th Congress
New Twists On Old Issues
 By CONGRESSIONAL QUARTERLY

WASHINGTON
 MANY an old speech in Congress well in 1955, when several of the big issues will be retraced.
 But the familiar plot — like how meets girl — emerges as a brand-new drama each time new stars and bit players, with new motivations, in a new atmosphere, embroider the basic pattern with fresh twists.
 Congressional Quarterly's annual outlook survey indicates that headlines will chronicle debate and action on such issues as military manpower, taxation, farm price supports, foreign aid, reciprocal trade, relations with Communist nations, and public vs. private power. All familiar, all recently at center stage.
GRAND FINALE
 Political things will provide one new plot twist. Committed by their 1954 campaign line, Democrats will press for rigid farm price supports and increased personal tax exemptions. But their strategists apparently have decided to save the vote-winning issue for 1956 — an election year.
 Another twist is a question mark: How well will the Republican administration get along with the Democratic 84th Congress and with lukewarm supporters in the GOP? President Eisenhower is trying to achieve harmony through consultations with congressional leaders — emphasizing foreign affairs and national defense when he confers with Democrats.
 Military manpower may develop as the biggest issue of 1955.

The administration claims its program will result in a military strength over the long haul. Major components of the formula: Extend the two-year draft four years; train 100,000 youths annually for six months in a variation of Universal Military Training; build up the reserves; cut back forces on active duty.
 The manpower program probably will face opposition on two broad fronts:
 Hostility toward any peacetime plan to keep constituents' sons in uniform, and
 Skepticism on reduction of standing forces before the Russian bear is tamed.
ACCENT ON TAXES
 Defense consumes dollars as well as men, so taxation again will be an issue. Desiring to limit the budget deficit, the administration will ask Congress to postpone scheduled cuts in corporation and excise taxes, and will oppose any Democratic attempts to increase individual income tax exemptions. With the budget still teetering off balance, the President will have to ask Congress to raise the debt ceiling above the permanent \$275 billion limit.
 Power — atomic and old-fashioned alike — will spark debate. The administration's "partnership" policy calls for greater participation by private utilities and state and local agencies. Ranged in opposition are advocates of expanding federal activity, who charge that national resources are being given away for private benefit.

Revival of rigid price supports for basic farm commodities is unlikely in 1955, although the attempt will be made. The main assault on flexible supports probably will be launched in 1956, when the scheduled reduction of minimum price guarantees will sharpen the issue. Other major farm battles will be fought over acreage controls and conservation policy.
 Segments of agriculture, along with certain industries, need foreign trade to remain prosperous. But other groups lose markets to competitive imports. That's the setting for a rather dual over tariff. President Eisenhower, who accepted a stop-gap extension of the reciprocal trade law in 1954, will seek a three-year program — with authority for further reductions of tariffs — in 1955.
MUFFLED TOUGHNESS
 Just a few pitch pipes will set the tone of foreign policy debate and action. If Communist China releases the imprisoned American airmen, advocates of such "tough" policies as a blockade will be mollified. If nations allied with the democracies pull hard at their bootstraps — stiffening military preparedness and bolstering their economies — Congress may harmonize on foreign aid.
 Other major issues in prospect for 1955 include: Labor law revision, minimum wage, statehood for Hawaii and Alaska, health reinsurance, housing, school aid, highways, employment and pro-

Focus on Defense, Pocketbook Issues
CONGRESSIONAL OUTLOOK '55

- MILITARY MANPOWER**
Draft, Reserves, UMI
- TAXATION**
Corporate, Excise, Exemptions
- FARM PRICE SUPPORTS**
Rigid vs. Flexible
- POWER**
Public vs. Private, Atomic
- RECIPROCAL TRADE**
Tariffs—Deeper Cuts?
- RELATIONS WITH REDS**
How Much Co-existence?
- FOREIGN AID**
Shift to Asia?

CONGRESSIONAL QUARTERLY NEWS SERVICE

John C. Erwin—Man Of The Year

WE HONOR a distinguished Charlottean today, an individual who has served his community with selfless dedication during 1954, an individual who has every right to be called Man of the Year.
 John C. Erwin is a man of imagination and immense energy. He has contributed his service to many outstanding projects this year and in past years. But he is perhaps best known for his work as chairman of the City Aviation Advisory Commission. Due largely to the activities of this body, Charlotte has assumed a leading role in a drama of postwar progress in American aviation.
 This came about when the Queen City dedicated its new \$1,327,000 air terminal building last summer.
 It was in time for the beginning of a nationwide boom in both private and commercial flying.
 It was in time to prevent Charlotte from being designated an aviation flag stop because of inadequate facilities.
 It was also in time to give the city an important edge on its rivals in a battle for air supremacy in the Carolinas.
 This contribution alone was reason enough for Charlotte to pay its respects to Mr. Erwin. But there was more. The Man of the Year has served many causes, been prominent in many projects. They stretch back over the years.
 He was on the building committee of Presbyterian Hospital when the new

building was erected in 1930. He was chairman of the institution's building committee and a member of the board of trustees when the new nurses home was built and the original hospital was remodeled. He is chairman of the building committee of Covenant Presbyterian Church and is guiding a vast construction program there. He is on the building committee of Queens College, which has been expanding its facilities recently. As president of Charlotte Country Club, he has even taken the lead in expanding that organization's facilities.
 In addition, Mr. Erwin has been extremely active in local civic clubs, the Chamber of Commerce and as a director of the Commercial National Bank. Somehow, he also finds time to be a very successful businessman.
 He has what we might call a deep community sense—a keen awareness of the community's needs together with the ability to help the people of the community meet those needs.
 Mr. Erwin joins a select group of Men of the Year—Coleman W. Roberts (1944), C. W. Gilchrist (1945), the late J. B. Marshall (1946), George M. Ivey (1947), Norman Pease (1948), Henry C. Dockery (1949), David Ovens (1950), John Wallington (1951), H. H. Everett (1952) and James P. McMillan (1953). Beyond a shadow of a doubt, the name of John C. Erwin belongs in this distinguished list.

A Cold War Victory For The West

THE French—restless, unhappy members of the Western alliance—yesterday forged a vital link in the free world's defensive chain. The National Assembly's votes of confidence for Premier Pierre Mendes-France may well mean that France is willing to hallow its irritation, frustration and hollow pride and accept the realities of a world of superpowers and peace-through-strength.
 It is a triumph for M. Mendes-France, the dynamic little premier who, with a mixture of nerve, showmanship and canny political maneuvering, has set France's house in order.
 It is a triumph for the major Western powers who were deeply troubled by France's tentative Dec. 24 vote against West German rearmament.
 It is a triumph, too, of reason over fear, cynicism and defeatism.
 Soviet Russia used every trick in the book to browbeat the French into rejecting the pacts permitting Germany to join the West's armed vanguard. The diplomatic air was filled with threats. There

will be no negotiated settlement of Europe's problems after ratification, said the Soviets. They warned also of a stepped-up arms race and the cancellation of mutual defense treaties.
 The pressures were severe but responsible Frenchmen, after much soul-searching, would not be intimidated. It was finally obvious to an important segment of the French people that there could be no adequate defense of Western Europe without a strong contribution from a revitalized Germany. These leaders agreed that an unarmed Germany, a Germany that could be overruled, would constitute a grave threat to French security. And when the necessary safeguards were provided against the revival of the German militarism France so desperately feared, they made the plunge.
 There was only one reasonable decision for France to make yesterday. France chose the way of reason and of honor and of the first major Cold War battle of the first magnitude.



People's Platform

Barber Shops Should Get Surprise Checks
 Editors, The News: Charlotte
 RECENTLY I have been in a number of the various barber shops in Charlotte and some of these that are not located in the city proper but just on the outskirts of town. I have noticed that a majority of these are not using anything but inferior equipment after insulting one customer. They immediately start on the other customer using the same comb and brush. I believe the City Health Dept. should take immediate steps to have this corrected. I believe this could be remedied by the city health officer making surprise checks at times other than his regular check for which they are always prepared. Christmas week. I saw

a number of children waited on with no respect to their health. Believe it or not, there will be plenty for you to think about if you or your children ever experience having a skin infection, not to speak of the agony and expense.
 —R. S. WHITAKER
 Charlotte

People Thanked For Toy Drive's Success
 Charlotte
 UPON completion of the third annual "Toys For Tots" drive held by the Marine Corps Reserve in Charlotte, I wish to take this opportunity to express the appreciation of the Inspector-Instructor Staff for the generous response of the people of Charlotte to our appeal for toys.
 It has been especially gratifying to me at the start of my tour of duty here to know that I should have the opportunity for continuing association with the residents of a city which has impressed me very highly by its warm-hearted spirit of cooperation and its generous contribution to this cause.
 It would be difficult if not impossible to make a success of the annual campaign without the aid of the many civic groups, clubs, and business firms who donated toys and time and the individuals who volunteered their services and gave so freely to "Toys For Tots."
 Our thanks go most so efficiently carried out the task of distributing all of the toys collected.
 —CAPT. M. J. MELTON
 Inspector-Instructor
 3rd Cargo Company
 USMC

Mending The Past's Broken Images

Ring out wild bells, to the wild sky; Ring out the old, ring in the new; Ring happy bells, across the snow!
 THE TONE of Tennyson's jubilant welcome to the New Year is now familiar enough to seem classic. Down through the ages, the coming of a new year has symbolized hope, rejuvenation, the dawn of a new life. It is the time when many seek to sever relations with the past and begin all over again with freshly mended faith and resolve. But memories of the past are the present—lifelike memories—of past forebodings and anticipations. Unless man profits by the past, rejuvenation will merely mean beginning a cycle which may already have ended in "a heap of broken images."
 What man is today is, in part, what he was in the past. A great part of his life is a monument to yesterday and last year and the year before that. It is that

portion of the past that progresses with him.
 No one can afford the luxury of a smug acceptance of the past. If this is done, the future, in many ways, will be nothing more than a hideous prolongation of the present. It would be like the aimless wanderings of the damned in Dante's circles.
 But if man should not react to the specter of the past with resignation, neither should he react with rage. This would merely betray his apprehension of guilt and lead only to fear and nostalgia.
 Faced with the prospect of the future—the year ahead or the decade ahead—he must assess the past with unflinching wisdom and learn to benefit from its triumphs and tragedies. With knowledge of the cycles and transitions of the past he can improve the marriage of the present and the future and achieve a culture that is not self-defeating.

THE REACTIONARY

IT IS NO surprise to anyone that the works of Mr. Ernest Hemingway, winner of the Nobel Prize in letters, should have been denounced at the All-Union Congress of Soviet Writers. Although few of his books have much to do with life in the United States, Mr. Hemingway is nevertheless an American; and for years it has been a party-line axiom that anything an American can do a Russian can do much better. This may explain the rumor, said to be circulating in Moscow, that the award to Mr. Hemingway was haughtily refused by an obscure Russian poet called Boris Leonidovich Pasternak.
 What is a bit surprising, and more than a bit amusing, is to find Comrade Simonov, who was chosen to deliver the attack, in agreement with that small and desperate sect of American critics of 25 or 30 years ago, who constituted the embattled rear guard of what the late George Santayana called "the genteel tradition." The trouble with Mr. Hemingway and other American novelists of his generation, said Comrade Simonov in effect, is the total absence of sweetness and light in their productions. Their novels, it seems, just leave you with a kind of hopeless feeling about life in general. And this of course is not an appropriate state of mind in which to undertake the building of the brighter and better tomorrow.

No doubt Mr. Hemingway's books have encouraged a few enervated bourgeois hedonists, for whom everything else has grown weary, stale, flat and unprofitable, to seek out the primitivistic thrills of bullfighting, lion hunting, big-game fishing and other extravagant demonstrations of valor and virility. But when one thinks of all the collectives waiting to be organized or reorganized, all the kulaks waiting to be liquidated, all the enemies of the people waiting to be ferreted out and destroyed, one can perceive what a reactionary streak this Mr. Hemingway really is, from the party-line point of view. Indeed, the moral of Mr. Hemingway's one political book, FOR WHOM THE BELL TOLLS, selected by Comrade Simonov for special condemnation, seems to be that playing at revolution, though indubitably dangerous, is not a very satisfying form of fun after all. Thus the thought occurs to us that what Mr. Hemingway's hairy-chested escapists may be trying to escape from are precisely the kind of enthusiasms that won the Stalin prize for Comrade Simonov.
 Legionnaire at the national convention was arrested for hitting a hotel man accidentally with a water pitcher. This, however, is still mild compared to the old days when the boys used to dangle maids out of hotel windows in sheets.—ARKANSAS GAZETTE.

Drew Pearson's Merry-Go-Round

WASHINGTON
 IMPORTANT backstage factors contributed to the narrow squeak of Premier Mendes-France on German rearmament. The fight could have been reversed had Secretary of State Dulles been on his toes.
 Here is the inside story of what happened.
 After Secretary Dulles came back from his emergency October meeting in Paris, he was the star performer at a televised Cabinet meeting where he explained the compromise plan he had worked out with Mendes-France and the British to replace EDC. He had flown to Paris after the French junked the long-debated EDC plan for a united European army. His compromise was acclaimed in the United States as a great diplomatic victory had not been reasonably acceptable to the French.
 At this point all looked well. But at this point, too, things happened.
 The Russians started a terrific campaign to change the French, while the Eisenhower administration did almost nothing. Secretly, the Russians had frequently seemed to believe that the mere enunciation of a policy means the adoption of

U. S. Fumbled Ball In French Crisis

that policy. He has been content to make a statement or a speech, then sit back and assume that this statement is being put into effect, when as a matter of fact he has been making a lot of follow-up to make a policy stick.
Meager Propaganda
 This was what happened after the optimistic official statements by Eisenhower, Nixon and Dulles last year regarding Indochina. It was also what happened during the German rearmament compromise was worked out in Paris last October.
 Immediately the Russians poured all the propaganda possible into France while Dulles did almost nothing. The Russians spend 112 million dollars a year on propaganda for France alone. The United States spends 65 million dollars a year for the entire world. This is because of recent budget-pinching.
 And while the Russians sent diplomatic notes to the French and British warning that their nonaggression pacts would be canceled if they heeded the stream of tough radio broadcasts to the French and British people,

Result: The comfortable margin which Premier Mendes-France seemed to have in October dwindled to almost zero.
 Only at the last minute, after the first negative vote in the French chamber, did John Foster Dulles call in newsmen and inspire new stories to Paris that France was "voting itself into oblivion."
 After that, German rearmament squeaked through the French chamber.
 But what diplomatic feat is it that Mendes-France will be thrown out as Premier next spring by the enemies of German rearmament.
Washington Pipeline
 Joe McCarthy has now adopted the martyr complex. Friends explain that Joe hasn't long to live, that he wouldn't have blasted Eisenhower had it not been for his poor health. . . . Though President Eisenhower is in the restaurant business, he seems to like his competitors. He has been a silent partner in two Howard Johnson restaurants in Washington, but the other day he visited the Black Angus farm in Illinois and petted, hot Shoppo owner J. Willard Marriott, at Home, Va. . . . George Al-

The Calories Have Betrayed The Groaning Board Of Yore

but a kid's digestive apparatus surpasseth that of a billy goat, and no lasting harm was done. These were the days when adults were supposed to grow comfortably stout as a badge of adulthood, and grandmas did not attempt to cling to a 28-inch waistline. Eating was a sport, not an ordeal, and a man who did not send his plate back for more was accused of bad manners. His leanest was a reflection on the cooking skill of his hostess.
 Today they seem to toy with the turkey, skip the dessert, and nibble half-heartedly at a salad. A salad during the yule season, when I was raised, would have been a literal skeleton at the feast. Hay was for horses, lettuce for rabbits. Neither had any place on a table.
 I have had one crack at an old-fashioned festive board this season and the payment for my folly endured for two days of gastric misery. I fear the breed carrying the genes for the ever-ready General Hauser and the six-day diet have replaced the holiday spirit and I think it a shame. Also I've prayed the groaning board, and the whole-wheat cracker seems a poor inhabitant of the horn of plenty.
 As I recall it, we employed a brace of monstrous turkeys that lasted from the first carving on Christmas until they wound up in sandwiches, and when the last bone was gnawed they broke out a couple more Toms for fresh consumption on New Year's.
 We never messed around with less than a couple of hams, one deep-red and salty and the other one fresh, blond in color and punctuated with cloves. The leftovers were for between-time eating—snacks.
VENISON TO BOOT
 We usually had a haunch and a saddle of venison, as well as a side dish, and enough candied sweet potatoes, with marshmallows on top, to wreck any silhouette. Eggnog was drunk as a beverage, and since eggnog is constructed mainly of cream, eggs and booze it didn't figure to thin you down to fighting weight.
 The house was full of raisins and assorted candies, usually made specially for the occasion, and for once the kids were allowed to "gourmandize" without parental injunction. And then there was always three kinds of cake, a black and a white fruit cake, full of juicy currants and candied cherries and raisins and nuts, and soaked in enough brandy to get the preacher stiff, and always a pound cake with white icing. If I remember the right, a pound cake had a pound of everything, eggs, butter, cream and sugar, and the icing was a solid inch thick.
 Next to the raisins there were the nut dishes, greasy Brazil nuts, pecans, and English walnuts, all carrying about a pound of weight to an ounce of nuts. The dessert was invariably plum pudding with a hard sauce, and the bread was hot biscuits soaked in butter, with cornbread for breakfast. The only concession to mildity's figure was something called ambrosia—grated coconut mixed with sliced fruit. That was supposed to tame down the heavy vittles.
 After you ate you slept, being too stuffed to move, and you woke up hungry, so you ate again, and continued to eat for a week. The kids got the bylatche, mostly because of the side load of store candles on top of the solid stuff.

for robbers, internal security, regulation of lobbies, federal reorganization, small business, and anti-trust policy.
THE CALORIES HAVE BETRAYED THE GROANING BOARD OF YORE
 By ROBERT C. RUARK
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Quote, Unquote

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No Crime Probe
 Sen. Estes Kefauver is not going to hold another crime investigation if certain senate leaders, including Lyndon Johnson of Texas, can stop it.
 The reason is simple: They don't want the tall, coonskin-capped Tennessee crowding them for the limelight, and especially they don't want to give him a chance for another presidential build-up. They know how close he came to the nomination in 1952, and they don't want to take any chances for 1956.