

**The Story Of The H-Bomb 'Delay'**

The biggest detour that Sen. McCarthy has yet set off was the charge in his television broadcast last week that there was a "deliberate delay" of 18 months in the decision to go ahead with the hydrogen bomb. With his usual insinuation, he asked: "If there were no Communists in our government, why did we delay?"

That's a question that simply defies a logical answer. McCarthy didn't say: "If there were no Communists in the Atomic Energy Commission . . . or in the White House . . . or in the joint Congressional Committee on Atomic Energy . . . why did we delay?" Instead he included in it a non sequitur. Whether or not there were Communists in government had nothing to do with the H-bomb decision unless they were among those officials making the decision, and McCarthy astutely avoided making that charge. Within the context of his remarks, however, one would draw the inference that Communists caused the delay.

The facts are quite to the contrary. A number of persons of undoubted integrity and loyalty who were in on the big decision have said McCarthy didn't know what he was talking about, and was already obvious to anyone who has followed the news. For the story of that delay has been written in detail over and over, after first being disclosed by the Alsops (who review the record in their column today.)

President Truman, members of the AEC, informed congressmen and scientists debated the momentous issue, not

**'Let's See—We Could Put Up Some New Post Offices'**



**Technical, Moral Reasons Why H-Bomb Was Delayed**

By JOSEPH & STEWART ALSOP

WASHINGTON

SEN. McCarthy is getting ready to play his ace-in-the-hole. McCarthy served notice of this intention when he charged in his Tuesday night lecture that there had been an "18-month deliberate delay" in the development of the American hydrogen bomb. "Traitors in the government," McCarthy implied, were responsible for the delay.

This new McCarthy attack comes as no surprise. A McCarthy investigation of leading physicists had been anticipated in the American scientific community for months, ever since McCarthy began to build a "case" early last summer. In fact, even before McCarthy spoke, a private meeting of some of the leading physicists had already been called, to take place in Washington late this month, for the purpose of considering a concerted counter-statement.

McCarthy will, of course, carefully time his ace-in-the-hole, in order to smother the smell of the McCarthy-Cohen-Schum mess. His ace must look to him like a sure winner. First, the subject matter itself guarantees a maximum sensation. Second, there actually was a delay in the decision to go ahead with the hydrogen bomb. Third, the physicist who is reported responsible for this delay are easy for McCarthy.

SCIENTISTS NAIVE

The older generation of physicists lived their early adult years in an incredibly isolated and rarified atmosphere. In this atmosphere, some of them (though by no means most) developed a truly monumental naivete about political matters. One extremely distinguished American physicist, who made great contributions to the American atomic program, is known in his younger years to have committed acts of political folly unworthy of the intelligence of a five-year-old child. He is certainly not alone.

McCarthy will of course use such ancient acts of folly to "prove" a deliberate treasonable design to delay American progress in the hydrogen field. In the real facts about the actual delay are not well understood, McCarthy may well get away with this fraud.

The basic facts are well known

to the present writers, since the story of the secret inner struggle over the hydrogen bomb first appeared in this space, and helped to force the decision to make the bomb. Briefly, the essential facts are these:

UNDER FIVE MONTHS

The delay in the decision to go ahead with the hydrogen project lasted, not 18 months, but well under five. It is true that the intelligence services now believe that the Russians started work on the hydrogen bomb about a year and a half before we did. But this was of course completely unknown to anyone in the country at the time. Before the first Soviet atomic test, in September, 1949, it had been believed that the Soviet would not test an atomic bomb—much less a hydrogen bomb—for at least two years.

Thus before September, 1949, the hydrogen bomb was a matter of academic theory. But immediately thereafter, the bitter secret debate within the government started, and culminated in President Truman's green light for the hydrogen bomb project, in January, 1950. Why, it may be asked, was there any debate at all, or any delay at all?

The answer is simple. The leading physicists harbored the most profound doubts as to the wisdom of making a vast investment in the hydrogen project. These doubts were in part moral — and why should they not be, since physicists are also human beings? But they were basically technical and scientific.

The plain fact is that the physicists were wrong. All the technical obstacles which were predicted to hinder the development of the bomb, and the United States (like the Soviet Union) can now boast a million people at a stroke.

But the point is that the physicists had a right to be wrong — and not only because the thermodynamic field was then an unexplored jungle of imponderables. They had a right to be wrong also because this right—the privilege of making an honest error of judgment without being labeled a traitor—is basic to free science and a free society.

**Registration Of Negroes Is Increasing In The South**

By DORIS FLEESON

ATLANTA, GA.

FARMERS are in distress in Georgia where they like Sen. Kerr's story about the farmer who said: "The President sure keeps his word. He said he'd bring the boys home and he's brought three of mine home—one from Korea and two from Denmark."

They are looking to their Sen. Russell, who has already expressed a dim view of Secretary of Agriculture Benson, to help them. This is bad news for Eisenhower, who is still hating Benson. Russell can almost certainly lead southerners and many Democrats into a winning combination with midwesterners.

Business generally has held up, however, except in a few instances, such as textiles. Retail trade is down, slightly but an Easter pick-up is expected. They are still building houses.

In the short run the only political repercussions from here of what is admittedly a break in the boom are likely to be Russell's fight for high price support and Sen. George's battle to raise income tax exemptions.

Over the long pull, the result is likely to be a shift of momentum toward the Republican Party, set in motion by the Eisenhower candidacy, have been rather thoroughgoingly compensated.

TRUMAN NOT FORGIVEN

Here as elsewhere no resentment appears directed toward President personally. They are more receptive to Eisenhower jokes but they still like him and they have not forgiven Harry Truman.

An important factor in any assessment of Southern politics today is Negro registration. It is largely in the South that there is a little public discussion of it, but the politicians understand very well that such registration is steadily rising and must be taken into account in any realistic appraisal.

Southern experts therefore did not share the surprise up North when Rufus Clement, president of Atlanta University, was elected to the city council here. Unquestionably, Clement was elected by white voters but they chose him because they knew he was expected—in a graceful but to the inevitable.

Governor Tompkins says there are 100,000 registered Negro voters in Georgia. The overwhelming majority, he asserts, are Democrats.

There are Democrats who privately believe that the South Carolina and Louisiana vote for Adlai Stevenson in 1952 largely because of the Negro vote. They think it will be the same in 1954, because the balance of power in Louisiana.

Democrats think they have profited from an advertising executive of the tideland oil dispute, arguing it can no longer be a divisive issue among them. The Supreme Court has contributed to present quiet by taking jurisdiction on segregation so that civil rights legislation is in abeyance. Democrats frankly admit they are glad the court's decision will be handed down in an Eisenhower Administration, with Republicans having responsibility for enforcing it.

**Rehabilitating N. C. Alcoholics**

IT TOOK years of work by physicians and social workers, books like THE SNAKE PIT and newspaper series like former News Reporter Tom P. Jimison's ORR OF THE NIGHT OF MORGANTON before society realized that its treatment of the mentally ill was cruelly improper. Today, in most states mental illness is treated like most any other illness, and a hearing number of patients are being restored to sound health and mind.

But society has not so quickly revised the scientific facts about alcoholism. Many local governing agencies refuse to recognize that alcoholism is an illness. Many judges send a drunk to prison, again and again, although they know full well that his incarceration will not aggravate his condition. Many legislators refuse to moderate laws and back establishment of adequate facilities for rehabilitation of alcoholics.

Recent articles by News Reporters Ann Sawyer and Lucien Agriell have shown that alcoholism is a big problem in this community, and that little is being done to get at the root of the problem. A start is being made, through community social organizations, to rehabilitate alcoholics from the county prison camp for whites. Negro alcoholics are not so fortunate. Local social organizations are not equipped to handle adequately the rehabilitation of prisoners from just the white camp, not to mention the Negro camp at Hattersville. No facilities comparable to the Alcohol Rehabilitation Center at Butler, for whites, are available to Negroes. And while there are several active Alcoholics Anonymous units for whites there are redempted.

Thus the betterment of any alcoholic's social and economic position may make him more amenable to treatment by the AA method. The obligation for this betterment rests heavily on the white community. But certainly Negro leaders might profitably devote more attention toward the establishment of AA organizations in their community. And with all citizens of the state rests the responsibility for choosing, at election time, officials at the state and county level who will recognize the true nature of alcoholism, and support a program which will rehabilitate, rather than incarcerate, the alcoholics whose lives can yet be redeemed.

**Congressional Quiz**

Q—How would Secretary of Agriculture, Ezra T. Benson's vote remain 90 per cent support?

A—Instead of rigid (fixed) support, he would give 90 per cent of party. He would want to use sliding scale (flexible) support, ranging from 75 to 90 per cent of party. Under his plan, supports would be at 90 per cent only when there were no surpluses. As surpluses accumulated, the support level would dip. The theory is that lower prices would increase consumption — eating up surpluses — and that high supports would encourage production in times of shortage. (Tobacco, alone among the six "basic" would retain 90 per cent support.)

Can current members of the Communist Party emigrate to the U. S.?

Yes, legally, according to terms of the McCarran-Waller Immigration and Nationality Act of 1952. However, Rep. George E. Bender (R. Ohio) said Feb. 20 that as many as "100 past and present members of the Communist Party have been entering the U. S. daily from Mexico" and that a "similar situation prevails along the Canadian border as well."

**Tigers Make Nice Rugs And Are Hard On People**

By ROBERT C. RUARK

SUPHUR RANGE, Central India

THE WAY you shoot a tiger is first to find enough money to get to India, and then you find somebody who knows where the tiger is live and has had the foresight to rent a slice of the area — called a "block" — from the government.

Then you find a genius like my friend Khan Sahib Jamsheed Butt, who knows how to locate tigers, and who knows the local aborigines well enough to hire them to rupee apiece to chase a tiger out of his happy little hide-hole. This rupee-apiece is risk pay, the rupee being worth about two bits.

A tiger is very big. He will weigh in his prime between 600 and 700 pounds, about the same as a zebra and with much the same stripes. In this area, which is agricultural, he is a menace — somebody came and ate the tiger.

The tiger is a menace because he needs a cow or a tame water buffalo about every two days to keep him in the style in which he is accustomed. This plays a good deal of havoc with the local economy, because a good work ox or buffalo is worth about 150 rupees, or three months' income.

LIKE EATING TRAINS

Since the buff and the cattle are needed to till the soil, the natives get quite excited over tigers. It is exactly as if you were a commuter, and every two days somebody came and ate the train.

Apart from his physical beauty, the tiger seems to have a very unattractive personality. He kills for fun, like people do. One late high — tiger — in this area once killed seven cows and a pig, and skipped happily from body to body. Another clobbered five horses. There is one man-eater a hundred miles from here with over a hundred human beings on his license. The peeping is very good in that area.

The tiger also hates male children. Unless the tigers hide her he-babies carefully. Father will be the only one of the news-stand headlines. I am not too happy about nicking up my daily man and reading "Humphrey's Personalities" with its headline "Against Tax Reduction" and "Humphrey Finds No Treasury in Act of the House."

It is a fact that he will return a second night to a nest, and if you build yourself a nest in a tree near the defunct buffalo or cow, and arm yourself with a flashlight and weapon, you can correct the mortality rate with the rifle.

Mis-her Identity—"Mr. President, like most men in public life, I must admit I take a second look at the news. I am not too happy about nicking up my daily man and reading "Humphrey's Personalities" with its headline "Against Tax Reduction" and "Humphrey Finds No Treasury in Act of the House."

Several of the Democrats reminded Dulles and Radford that President Truman had got a united recommendation from the Joint Chiefs of Staff regarding Korea and then had assumed responsibility. He did not ask for a blank check from Congress first.

**South's Gain Isn't Northeast's Loss**

ONE OF THE main points New Englanders have made in their argument with the South over textile business is that there is much employment in their region since many textile firms moved south. Some New Englanders think that the government should award them contracts because of the labor surplus and unused plant facilities.

Southern mills usually can do the work cheaper. Thus the awarding of contracts to New England could not be justified economically, although the human factor of mass unemployment deserves governmental consideration. But there's a change going on in New England now, a change which makes the northeasterners' plea for special consideration less valid than it was.

The electrical machinery industry is moving into the old textile mills and employing the former textile workers. Literally dozens of electronics companies have been lured to New England by the attractive sale or rental price on vacant factories and the labor market. While employment in textiles has dropped

**Drew Pearson's Merry-Go-Round U. S. Indochina Pans Startle Solons**

WASHINGTON

HOW near the United States has been shooting down most of the French and American planes flying lower than 11,000 feet.

Also the fact is so small that it is difficult to parachute supplies into such a small perimeter with any degree of accuracy, and much of the parachuted supplies fall outside the fortress into Communist hands.

Another Korea?

Democratic reaction to the Dulles-Radford request for congressional support for possible war in Indochina was summed up by Sen. Lyndon Johnson of Texas, the democratic leader.

"After time after I have had to listen to any Republican colleague," he said, "looking at GOP leaders under the leadership of California," "tell us about the Korean War and how it started under the leadership of the Democrats. Now it appears we are faced with another Korea."

"Yes, and we have had to listen to the Democrats call us the party of treason," added Congressman John McCormack of Boston. "Our patriotism was impugned at a time when we all should have been united against communism instead of fighting and condemning each other. I doubt therefore if it would be very easy to get many Democrats to vote for this resolution."

Sen. Russell of Georgia, another Democrat, was critical of the fact that the British and other western allies had not yet been consulted about cooperating with us.

"Do you mean to say that you are asking Congress for such broad authority without an agreement from the French that they will join with us?" Russell asked in brief.

Knowledge of California, Republican leader of the Senate, was equally skeptical. He was just as emphatic as the Democrats that Congress must be advised on how far our allies are willing to go before any blanket resolution was even submitted to Congress.

French Losing Heart

Secretary Dulles brought out the fact that the French were offering more independence today to the three Indochinese states than those same states had requested five years ago when they asked for commonwealth status. However, the three states are now demanding complete independence, which is more than they are willing to give and still stay in the fight. On the other hand, the three states can hardly settle for less than complete independence as long as Ho Chi Minh is offering complete "independence" under the Red banner.

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**KEEP SILENT BEFORE WHOM?**

A SPORTS STORY on the Greater Greensboro Open tells how someone who whistled when Julius Boros started a backswing on No. 1 tee, whereupon the professional "ped the ball into the trees on the right."

So what? Suppose a baseball player fanned or muffed a ball every time a bleacher whistled, what sort of game would you have?

The answer is that you'd have the same sort of game you'd have in golf or tennis. The word for it is funeral. The silence is appalling. Every now and then

you expect somebody to quote Edna St. Vincent Millay. "Prithce, let no bird sing." All the players want is silence—and very little of that.

Games weren't meant to be played in a hush. And they ought not to be too genteel. We're in favor of more noise and rooting in golf and tennis. We think it would be good training for a player's nerves if, when he gets all set to serve or drive, some fan would holler, "You're gonna miss 'ya bum!" Anyway it would liven up the game.