

TUESDAY, APRIL 13, 1954

N. C. Passes Up Polio Vaccine

N. C. Passes Up Police

WE CANNOT but voice our deep
disappointment that state health
officials in North Carolina have ruled
out the use of the new Salk polio vaccine this year.

The Salk viccine holds out, for the
first time, very real promise of ending
the dri decase of infantile paralysis,
the dri seen tested and retested in the
aboratory and on selected groups of
individuals, and this year is to get a
large-scale test in the field. It had been
tentatively agreed that the new vaccine
would be tried out in seven North Carolina counties that have had a high polio
incidence over a period of years—New
Hanover, Catawha, Caldwell, Durham,
Guilford, Rockingham and Buncombe.
Dr. Roy Norton, state health officer,
has notified the National Foundation for
Infantile Paralysis that North Carolina
will not participate. He and his assistant,
Dr. John H. Hamilton, contend that the
upsurge of polio in North Carolina
starts earlier than in other states—in
April and May, reaching its peak during,
July—and that it requires five weeks
to give the three inoculations of the vaccine.

"Better use can be made of this scarce vaccine by using it in a state with a later seasonal peak," he wired Dr. Hart E. Van Riper, medical director of the National Foundation for Infantile Paralysis.

A layman is not competent to question the professional judgment of the state health officials. But even to a layman, it is obvious that if the inoculations were given as late as May I, immunity would be established early in June, well before the peak months of July and August.

Drs. Norton and Hamilton have assumed a responsibility that we would not take. If any of the seven test counties are hit by polio in 1954, and if the polio vaccine proves effective elsewhere, they will have to answer to their own consciences.

Moreover, this new development is one of the most dramatic and the most significant events in the history of medicine. It distresses us that North Carolina, a leader in so many enterprises, will be sitting on the sidelines instead of taking part in the nationwide testing of the new vaccine.

From Cobalt Bombs, A Scorched Earth

FOR A LONG TIME now, military within the range of technical possibilities."

FOR A LONG TIME now, military commanders have used the phrase—"scorched earth policy"—to describe a tactic used by the defeated to delay a conqueror, or by the conqueror to punish the defeated. But it has never been more than a figure of speech, for man was not given the power to destroy completely all life, even in the relatively narrow strip of territory he set out to lay waste. When the armies were gone, normal life was soon resumed. Today a "scorched earth" is no longer a figure of speech. It has been brought into the realm of the scientifically probable by the development of the hydrogen bomb. By casing the bomb in cobalt instead of steel, we are told, the atmosphere can be made radioactive. Prof. Leo Szillard of the University of Chicago, one of the architects of the atomic bomb, estimates that 400 one-ton deuterium-cobalt bombs would create enough radioactivity in the atmosphere can be made. However, and there are not the successful, radioactive poisoning of the atmosphere, and here annihilation of the atmospher, and here annihilation of the atmospher, and here a manihilation of the atmospher, and here annihilation of

"If successful, radioactive poisoning of the atmosphere, and hence annihilation of

within the range of technical possibilities."

Laboratory tests already made show that when cobalt is bombarded with neutrons, it develops radioactive rays 320 times more powerful than the gamma rays given off by radium. In theory, an enemy could set off a cobalt bomb in the Facific, and the prevailing winds would carry the radioactive dust cloud across the United States, destroying most life it is pathonal bomb contains within the state of the state of the radioactive dust cloud across the United States, destroying most life it is pathonal bomb contains within the state of the radioactive cloud would some to safe because of the rotation of the earth, the radioactive cloud would some or later pass over the territory of the nation setting off such a bomb. Hence, it is unlikely—unless some madman should try to destroy the whole world along with himself—that a cobalt bomb is already technically feasible is just one more reason for the great powers to get together on some realistic and adequate system of international control of hydrogen and atomic warfare. The secret of the universe is too rich with the promise of beneficial dividends to permit its being lost by mass suicide.

Planning Board Needs Better Understood

MAYOR Phil Van Every's endorsends and the board should be working on the Charlotte Planning Board indicates a growing understanding around City Hall of the difficulties the board is up against. The board has only the part-time services of James R. Rich and that portion of his time available to the board is largely taken up by checking residential stabdivisions inside the city and up to a mile beyond the city limits.

If the Planning Board had no other function than that, it would not need its town planning and engineering staff But the board has been saked to undertake several other major projects.—Kingi the boundaries for fringe area zoning and the city limits, to cite only two. And there are a dozen other projects lying the perimeter area with a view to extending the city limits, to cite only two. And there are a dozen other projects lying will have to be forthcoming. on.

The mayor's statement in yesterday's News makes a point too often forgotten. In the years when the late J. B. Marshall, a former city manker, was consultant to the Planning Board, the city got more than its money's worth. Mr. Marshall was a qualified engineer who was dedicated to serving his city. The modest consulting fee his firm received did not begin to pay for the job he did.

The J. B. Marshalls, however, are few and far between. The Planning Board today is up against some problems which, if anything, are even knottier than the ones it faced when it had Mr. Marshall's help. And if the Council wants the board to be an effective agency, some money will have to be forthcoming.

Brownell Report Served Useful Purpose

ATTORNEY General Brownell's report

A TORNEY General Brownell's report
to the nation on the fight against
Communist subversion and espionage
helped to bring into clearer focus a
picture that had been distorted by the
headline hunters in Congress.

The attorney general reminded his
audience of the excellent work done by
the Federal Bureau of Investigation,
especially its infiltration of Communist
ranks—"so understanding (a success)
that the Communist Party in this country doesn't know which of the Communist
ranks to trust."

He also stressed the importance of the
secutive department's security program
and the need for tightening up legal
and the need for tightening up legal
and the need for tightening up legal
and the security program
and the need for tightening up legal
security department's security program
and the need for tightening up legal
security department's security program
and the need for tightening up legal
security of the need for the communities of the need for tightening up legal
time maken a Maken and the med for the communities of the need for tightening the need to the need for the need

nists to escape units of the first of the fi

every one of his recommendations for new legislation.

Even so, there can be no disagreement among thoughtul people with his major premises: (1) that keeping close tab on Communist activities is a job for trained experts; (2) that it is the responsibility of the executive branch to enforce fair and workable loyalty standards for government employes; and (3) that new laws should be adopted when it can be shown they are clearly needed.

The congressional investigative committee has a role in the act, to be sure, but the main reliance must be placed upon the **gencies* and processes of jus-

A boy swallowed a marble while watching a TV show, and was rushed to the hospital. The surprising thing is any-body noticed. — Kingsport (Tenn.)

The best thing to take when run down is the license number of the car.—Val-

One of the most desirable changes a change in courthouse administrations could effect would be to change the odor of courthouse disinfectants.—Lexington



Officials Obsessed With Secrecy For Its Own Sake

By JOSEPH & STEWART ALSOP

Drew Pearson's Merry-Go-Round

Teamsters, Summerfield Made A Deal

MASHINGTON

REFUBLICAN ranks are not happy over a deal put across between the teamsters' union in Detroit and Post-master General Summerfield to call off and was asked.

Similar to the teamsters' union in Detroit and the committee of the Summerfield-Ferusion deal with the teamsters.

Hough publication of the facts is certain to bring ringing denial, this deal was what was behind the speech made on the floor of the House of Renuclear dupon its investigations when, apparently for political reasons, it was luniquated.

It was the same Summerfield-team and welfare floor of the House of Renuclear (Last June, Congressman Hoffman, Interest the conditions to the committee on labor racketeering and welfare floor of the House of Renuclear (Last June, Congressman Hoffman, Interest the conditions of the Samestre, Same Summerfield-team).

Camsters Object

Last June, Congressman Hoffman, Interest the Covernment Operations Committee of the Government Operations Committee. The Conditions of the Samestre, Same Subcommittee, to a subcommittee, of Manual, and the same summerfield-team in and around the Government Operations Committee of the Government Operations Committee of the Government Operations Committee to a subcommittee of the Congressman of the Government Operations Committee to a subcommittee of the Congressman of the Government Operations Committee to a subcommittee of the Congressman of the Government Operations Committee to a subcommittee of the Congressman of the Government Operations Committee to a subcommittee of the Congressman of the Government Operations Committee to a subcommittee of the Congressman of the Government Operations Committee to a subcommittee of the C