

THE CHARLOTTE NEWS

THOMAS L. ROBINSON.....Publisher
J. E. DOWD.....General Manager
B. S. GRIFFITH.....Executive Editor
C. A. McKnight (On Leave).....Editor

THURSDAY, JANUARY 20, 1955

Economy - Conscious North Carolina Should Retain Old-Age Lien Law

NORTH CAROLINA'S midcentury movement to wipe out the lien law program is again under attack. Sen. B. H. Winters of Avery has introduced a bill in the General Assembly to repeal the law providing for liens on the property of persons accepting old-age assistance.

It is altogether possible that the present law can be improved but it certainly should not be junked. The lien law is not oppressive. It is simply designed to tighten the public assistance program in North Carolina, prevent the disbursement of funds to the unscrupulous and the undeserving, and protect the taxpayer.

Many individuals ostensibly qualified for public assistance in North Carolina possess certain assets—homes and other real property, for instance, whose assets are not readily tapped for public support but they represent wealth. Under the present law, those receiving old-age assistance sign liens against their property. This enables the state to attach such property for repayment of welfare benefits of the government after the death of the recipient and before the estate is used to enrich any heir.

THE LAW does not deprive the recipient of the property during his or her lifetime. It does, however, encourage potential heirs to contribute to the support of their parents rather than to inherit property against which a lien applies.

In addition, application of a lien has doubtless deterred many people who have other resources—from seeking public assistance.

In a nutshell, the commendable aim of the lien law is to retain public assistance for those persons genuinely in need.

But unfortunately a great deal of misery stands existing about the enforcement of the law and the way it works. Many are unaware that a lien does not threaten the right of the recipient to a home. For example, past campaigns to repeal the lien law have been waged upon the theme, "Don't Take The Homes Away From The Old Folks." This sort of erroneous appeal completely distorts the facts of the matter.

ABOUT two-thirds of the states, spurred by the necessity to economize in the welfare field, have enacted lien laws. The merits of such legislation have been amply demonstrated.

But notice what has occurred in states which have repealed their lien laws. When Louisiana abolished its lien law in 1946, less than 29 per cent of the state's population aged 65 and over, was receiving old-age assistance. By December, 1951, the number had climbed to 67.4 per cent.

In April, 1947, when Washington's lien law went into effect, there were 67,503 old-age recipients on state rolls. One year later, in April, 1948, the number had dropped seven per cent to 63,777. However, after the law was repealed, effective Jan. 1, 1949, the number of old-age recipients in September, 1949, was almost 12 per cent greater than in September, 1948.

Repeal of North Carolina's lien law would in effect mean that all taxpayers would contribute to the estate for heirs who at the time of an old-age recipient's death, would pocket the estate without any obligation.

Clearly, this law is in the public interest. It should be retained.

'Horse Sense' And The Intellectual

THE principal speaker at a gathering of Charlotte businessmen a few days ago was introduced as a "Ph. D. with 'horse sense'." The implication was, of course, that a combination of higher education and "horse sense" nowadays is remarkable indeed. We found the incident strangely symptomatic of a growing disillusionment about the role of the intellectual in modern society.

The professor—and to a large extent the traditional intellectual values he represents—has become the subject of suspicion and the target of ridicule. He is accepted in certain company only if he possesses "horse sense."

"Horse sense" in this instance does not necessarily mean the hard-headed, practical realism associated with yesterday's rugged individualists. More often it indicates simply an acceptance of the popular, sloganized cynicism of postwar

America. The intellectual with "horse sense" is thus the intellectual who denies or at least conceals his intellectual values.

It is a surprising transition—this falling from grace of the professor. In many minds he has changed from a respected figure to a foolish or even a dangerous one. He is associated somehow with fuzzy-headed economics, moral softness, naivete about Communists and something we have heard described as "visionary nonsense."

The real danger is of social pressure from today's militant demi-intellectuals will compel the professors actually to abandon their visionary hopes and motives; that, in their fear of being thought naive, they will replace intellectual values with "horse sense" (in its most limited modern definition).

That would, we believe, be a tragedy.

How Snow Reveals The Nature Of Man

THERE are two kinds of people. One kind keeps chains in the car, and puts them on when it snows. These people know where to find their galoshes. They are at the office and working by the time the other kind of people gets under way.

This latter kind divides into two groups. There are those who push their own and a distressed motorist's car, by bumper or by hand, and enjoy themselves for the effort. By and large this group believes in free enterprise and private initiative, in freedom among them, when a distressed motorist's car is blocking the road, are both capitalists and socialists in a hurry to get to the office.

This group also includes women, who shame men in the other group, who sit motionless in their cars, grumping because the city doesn't maintain a fleet of snowplows.

This latter group likewise divides into two categories. There are the native southerners, who don't know what to do when there's snow in the road. And

there are the Yankees who know what to do but who came South mostly to evade the tax on their money and to get out of town and show off.

But all categories, groups and kinds cannot help but feel, down deep, the delight of a real snow, as fell on the Piedmont yesterday. Snow is, above all, a child's delight, and we are all yet children enough to appreciate its wonder and beauty. May it now again and again and again—and by not real snow.

Thrift

IT MAY or may not have been a coincidence but President Eisenhower sent his budget message to Congress on the first day of National Thrift Week. After a glance at the figures, we were somewhat reminded of what Artemus Ward had to say on the subject of thrift:

"Let us all be happy and live within our means, even if we have to borrow money to do it with."

From The Florida Times-Union

HI-FI WORLD

BENEATH the supposedly silent seas, the Navy is making so much noise that fish sonar operators are having trouble telling a submarine from the creatures of the deep.

The Office of Naval Research reports that tape recordings have been made of the chatter of nearly 200 species of fish and other marine animals. These recordings will be used to help sonar operators distinguish between "fish talk" and noise created by surface ships and submarines.

Fish noises are nothing new—to the fish. But they are another example of the multitude of things that has gone on in this world for ages without our becoming aware of them before.

Fish were probably making noise before the first land creatures crawled out of the depths. But man is just getting around to inventing underwater sound detection devices that can hear them.

Almost everyone is now familiar with the fact that dogs hear sounds far above

man's auditory range. For much of man's history, his dogs were his only "hi-fi" sound detection device. Man's best friend might even be a little more useful today if he would learn to point terms.

The termite is a creature that has been the symbol of silent, undercover work. But his noise is actually detectable by the unaided human ear. To the home owner who belatedly discovers his house falling around his ears, the gnawing of termites can sound like a deafening roar.

Other creatures of this world, from birds to bats, maintain a constant chatter beyond the ranges of man's hearing. The birds sing love songs that only other birds can appreciate. And as were using their own variety of radar for night flying long before man and his electronics existed.

This world was a noisy place before radios, jazz bands and heavy traffic. We just haven't been listening.

'Yeah, Uh Huh, Sounds Fine—'



At Least There Was A Code

The Ancient Art Of Dueling

By EDWARD R. MURROW
CBS Commentator



EDWARD R. MURROW
Choose Your Weapons

PRESIDENT Somoza of Nicaragua has, as you probably know, challenged President. Figures of Costa Rica to a duel. He suggests that the two men meet at the frontier and settle the dispute with pistols. The President of Costa Rica declines the challenge of the President of Nicaragua, saying he's "crazier than a goat in the mid-summer sun."

It appears to this reporter that the code of duelling, long frowned upon by judicial, ecclesiastical and just plain members of the public, has in this instance been violated. Traditionally the party challenged should have the choice of weapons, but in this case Somoza, the challenger, chose pistols. He must send some training with the United States Marine Corps, and this weapon would presumably give him an advantage over President Figueres, who was trained as an engineer, and who as the challenged party should have been allowed to choose the weapons.

SAND AT 20 PACES The president conventionally have chosen shotguns, or dry sand at 30 paces in a high crosswind, with no rushing in.

However, this uncertain and intolerant age, some comfort may be drawn from the fact that pistols were suggested. There is nothing in the fragmentary despatches received to indicate that either President contemplated a duel at close range with handy hydrogen or atomic weapons.

There has been bad blood between the two men for many years, and there is ample reason in the tradition of the duelling code to expect a duel to occur. Historically duels are difficult and tedious to arrange. Back in the 1500's, Francis the First of France and Charles the Fifth of Spain challenged each other to single combat. They indulged in accordance with the conventional rules they never actually met on the field.

But the mutual bad manners and insults, and the prospect of a duel was apparently good for the duelling business. For during 10 years of the reign of Henry the Fourth in France it is estimated that 6,000 persons fell in duels.

The general acceptance of the definition of a duel is that it is a pre-arranged encounter between two persons, with deadly weapons in accordance with the conventional rules, with the object of voiding a personal quarrel, or of deciding the practice over to England, where it flourished during the reign of George the Third, involving such names as Pitt, Canning, Castlereagh and the Duke of York and Richmond. The

Duels as we know them or rather as we don't know them—because you kill a man in a duel now it's murder, it was not common before the 18th century.

The only duels this reporter has witnessed, aside from those between a rickshaw puller and Germain in the early 30's, which were about as fine a bit of stolid, unromantic, I suggest, as could be found at that time.

PISTOLS LIMITED As of tonight it appears that there will be no duel on the border between Costa Rica and Nicaragua. Thus the law common to much of the western world, the law forbidding duelling, will be observed. We have no way of knowing how many President Figueres is with a pistol. President Somoza is apparently confident of his ability, for he chose the weapon although under the rules he was not entitled to do so. Still, the very fact that pistols were mentioned, I suggest, be regarded as encouraging.

Presumably both men would have a choice of weapons—both lethal and decisive weapons are available to both. The pistol is a "limited weapon." In this case there is some significance, might be even hope, in this small duel with pistols that didn't come off. Maybe nations will act like the two presidents.

Some will contend that single combats in which such men as Hector, Achilles and Horatio engaged were actually duels, but they weren't. They were merely "incidents" in national wars.

People's Platform

People Die Because Facilities Inadequate

Charlotte Editors: The month of January, 1955, I addressed a letter to the management of Good Samaritan Hospital, requesting an audience in order that I might bring to their attention some conditions I observed during my visits to the hospital, which in my opinion, may have contributed to the death of a patient. I was denied this requested audience on the grounds "you like many laymen have only unfair criticism" to make and an audience will not be available."

It is true, I am not a doctor, but I do possess sufficient intelligence to distinguish between adequate and inadequate hospital facilities. I am not unimpaired of the wonderful advances that have been made in relieving human suffering among my people. The establishment of this institution in 1951 was indeed a commendable step in the missionary field on the part of the

Episcopal Church. Facts found and just released by the hospital study commission, such as infant mortality among Negroes, and maternal death rate, are to say the least, appalling. Those conditions have existed far too long.

Through the columns of this paper, June 6, 1952, I vented the assertion, "some Negroes who are now resting in Pinewood Cemetery and York Memorial Park, would be alive today had they received all-out medical care and adequate hospitalization."

Immediate relief is imperative and I for one am in favor of the hospital study commission's recommendation for the admission of Negroes to the city's Memorial Hospital.

—JACOB THOMPSON

Quote, Unquote

A "thinking machine" is attracting much greater interest with hindsight?—Laurel (Miss). Leader-Call.

Prospects Poor For U.S. Aid In School Construction

By MARQUIS CHILDS

WASHINGTON WHAT was not included in the Eisenhower budget for the new government year has caused almost more stir than what it did contain. Educational leaders were shocked to find that there was no allocation for federal aid for school construction.

They felt especially let down since in his State of the Union message President Eisenhower had said that "positive, affirmative action must be taken now" to overcome an "unprecedented classroom shortage." The educators had thought that this meant at least some federal aid would be forthcoming to help overcome the shortage of classrooms throughout the nation, which is estimated at 370,000.

NO AID ALLOCATION When he addressed Congress on Jan. 6, the President promised a special message on education to be sent up Feb. 15. But since there is no allocation to school aid in the new budget, educators are putting slight hope in the forthcoming message.

Several congressmen are reported to have been given a preview of what the president intends to propose. He will recommend, it is reported, a federal school building authority which will encourage and coordinate the formation of state school building authorities.

The federal authority would have a small fund for grants-in-aid to those states least able to finance their own schools. According to one report, this will be only 25 million dollars. In the light of present school construction needs, estimated conservatively at four billion dollars a year for the next five years and somewhat less thereafter, this is in the view of education officials would be an insult. However, it is believed, according to another source, that the amount recommended may be about over 100 million dollars.

It is also reported that the President's February message may recommend an additional \$100 million for grants-in-aid to state and local schools. This will start at 50 million dollars a year and go up to 200 million dollars at the end of four years. Linked with this is the report that the President will recommend construction aid for colleges.

But in view of the desperate need at the grade-school and high-school levels, it seems unlikely that the White House would propose funds for advanced education. One authority estimates that 20 per cent of all pupils are now attending school in firetraps while 10 per cent attend in buildings more than 50 years old. This is due to many factors, including the lag in new-school construction during World War

II, the greatly increased birth rate and the failure to replace old buildings.

BUREAU ON STATES The President in his budget message sticks closely to the line of state responsibility. Educational leaders had hoped that perhaps this line had been breached when in his State of the Union address he had spoken of the need for the federal government to serve as "an effective catalyst" in dealing with the serious school shortage. The word "catalyst" appeared in the text of the President's talk as released by the White House.

In reality, it is said, Mr. Eisenhower substituted the word "agent." This may be a reference to the rumored federal school building authority which would help the states to initiate action.

Sen. Lister Hill (D-Ala.), chief chairman of the Senate Labor and Education Committee, has introduced a bill providing \$60 million dollars a year for school construction to help 20 senators, 25 Democrats and two Republicans. There has been some talk of bringing this out of committee without formal hearings, since it is identical with a bill sponsored in the last Congress by former Sen. John Sherman Cooper and encourage the report for the fact that the Cooper bill called for expenditures of 250 million dollars a year.

Favorable action is expected from the Senate. The bill will have tougher going in the House. Those opposing it are said to feel that segregation issues—an amendment stipulating that no state practicing segregation should receive funds under the measure—will kill it in the House. Republicans and conservative Democrats would undoubtedly sustain a presidential veto.

Mrs. Oveta Culp Hobby, head of the Dept. of Health, Education and Welfare, has repeatedly opposed federal help for school construction. She has counseled patients in the White House Conference on Education, to be held in the fall, which will be followed by a series of state conferences on an amendment stipulating that no state practicing segregation should receive funds under the measure—will kill it in the House. Republicans and conservative Democrats would undoubtedly sustain a presidential veto.

The President in his budget message also refers to these conferences, holding out the hope that these conferences will provide a long-range solution to the problems and will place in better perspective the obligations and opportunities existing at the levels of government. But those who are concerned over the desperate overcrowding in the schools, which they link with the rapid rise in juvenile delinquency, insist that waiting for a long-range solution is to deprive a whole generation of a decent opportunity for education. By 1960 it is estimated that 100 million classrooms will total 720,000.

Reds Trying To Isolate And Soften Up Indonesia

By JOSEPH ALSOP

JAKARTA, Indonesia HERE in Indonesia, just as the global wave started by the Communist victory in Indochina is the great future danger.

It is striking that this should be so. Thailand is both a small country and uncomfortably close to the source of trouble, Indonesia, in Southeast Asia. It is one of the world's great nations, with a devoutly Moslem population of eight million. The tepid seas that lap these rich green islands protect Indonesia from the direct military menace to which Thailand can be exposed.

All the same, it is almost certain that this superb Indonesia cannot be added to the expanding Communist empire in Asia. If Thailand is allowed to fail, in the absence of anything like a serious Western or Indian policy for South Asia, the Communists can afford to take their time in Indonesia. But sooner or later, the Communist wave of the future will reach these shores unless it is quickly halted on the Asian mainland.

REDS EXECUTED THIS IS TRUE, moreover, although Indonesian communism is inherently weak. Back in 1948, on the Day of Madureh, the famous student and other secessionist Indonesian Communists tried to seize the leadership of Free Indonesia from President Sukarno and his collaborators of that period. As a result, the whole Indonesian Communist high command was briskly purged.

Under its new and untried chief, Aidit, who has not even had hard Moscow training, the party has been slow to recover from the day's setback. It has made some headway in the labor unions in

Jakarta and other big towns. But as yet it has no support among the great mass of the Indonesian people's backbone. And the armed services and police are still sternly anti-Communist.

In these circumstances, it would be suicidal for the party to try to take power now or in the near future, before there has been a great change of political climate. So the present Communist line in Indonesia is not to take it. It is to wait for a change, intentionally and to soften up Indonesia internally.

The cracks on President Sukarno and the present government of Prime Minister Ali Sastroamidjone, as being "pro-Communist," will be added to the expanding Communist empire in Asia. If Thailand is allowed to fail, in the absence of anything like a serious Western or Indian policy for South Asia, the Communists can afford to take their time in Indonesia. But sooner or later, the Communist wave of the future will reach these shores unless it is quickly halted on the Asian mainland.

REDS EXECUTED THIS IS TRUE, moreover, although Indonesian communism is inherently weak. Back in 1948, on the Day of Madureh, the famous student and other secessionist Indonesian Communists tried to seize the leadership of Free Indonesia from President Sukarno and his collaborators of that period. As a result, the whole Indonesian Communist high command was briskly purged.

Under its new and untried chief, Aidit, who has not even had hard Moscow training, the party has been slow to recover from the day's setback. It has made some headway in the labor unions in

Drew Pearson's Merry-Go-Round

WASHINGTON IT'S been a long time since Henry Ford amazed the world with a revolutionary wage scale—a guaranteed \$8 a day to auto workers. But to day his grandson, Henry Ford II, is about to hatch something just as revolutionary.

Young Ford is about to come forward with a guaranteed annual wage to labor. Furthermore, he is going to beat General Motors to the punch. This probably means a complete new chapter in the history of American industry. It means that other auto companies will follow suit and that steel, which has faced demands from the United Steel Workers, will also have to fol-

Ford Will Guarantee Annual Wage

low. It means that the piecemeal and the day-to-day hiring system may soon be out of the industrial window.

Behind the Ford decision are some extremely interesting facts. In the place, Ford, General Motors and Chrysler all-face a showdown with the United Auto Workers in the spring, when Walter Reuther has already announced he would plump for a guaranteed annual wage.

Ford and GM approach this showdown with a tough 10-year battle in which both have been trying to gain leadership in the sale of low-priced cars. Ford knows that once he gains the No. 1 place, your costs drop, also your price. You don't have to put out

so many inducements in advertising to salesmen and to dealers.

This race between the big two of the auto industry gives the United Auto Workers an especially strong position. For one week's strike against either Ford or GM would cost 40,000 units, while a two-week strike would cut off 100,000 units.

Knowing this, young Henry Ford has decided to gamble on his own ability and on the future prosperity of the United States to attain the No. 1 place in sale of low-price cars. Actually it's a much greater gamble than he realizes. For if he guesses wrong about American prosperity, if his plants are shut

down for a long period, it will cost Ford millions. For during the shutdown—under the guaranteed annual wage—he must keep on paying wages.

A lot of details are still undecided regarding the Ford plan for an annual wage—such as how many workers and what type of workers will be covered; how big the wage will be; whether the wage for the year will probably be fixed at a lower level than the day-to-day wage with no certainty of employment.

However, Henry Ford the First thrived on controversy and young Henry is following in his father's footsteps. He plans to move out into the place as a leader of American industry.