

THURSDAY, JANUARY 22, 1953

Prize-Winning Editorial

(The following editorial was selected by North Carolina Press Association judges as the best editorial appearing in a daily newspaper of over 20,000 circulation in this state last year. It appeared in THE NEWS Feb. 22, 1954. It was written by The Rememer, associate editor of THE NEWS, who, during his three and one half years at THE NEWS has won three honorable mentions in the N. C. Press Association contest, a Freedoms Foundation award and a Heywood Brown citation. During four of the past five years News editorial writers have won first place in the press association contest. C. A. McKnight, editor (on leave) of THE NEWS, won first prizes in 1950, 1951 and 1953.)

A Fine Phrase, But A Faulty Issue

"HE HAD cozened the world by fine phrases," wrote Macaulay. He used the term, probably, in its usual sense, meaning to deceive, "usually by small arts, or in a paltry way."
 Thursday night Kerr Scott embellished the word before Laurinburg Legionnaires, said the veteran program "ought not to be hamstrung by Republican cozening," went on to attack the veteran program as administered by Republicans and to repeat his opposition to socialized medicine.

In the interest of keeping Tar Heel voters from being cozened, let's take a look at what "cozening" means. The new Veterans Administration policy of requiring veterans admitted to VA hospitals to list their assets and general financial condition was characterized by Scott as "a shocking violation of a veteran's inherent and rightful dignity." It is nothing of the kind. Instead, the abuse which this new policy tends to minimize, albeit inadequately, is one which shocks the dignity of all citizens. Here's what happens. A man goes to a VA hospital, swears he's sane, sane, sane, and gets his appendix out, or his tonsils, for free.
 Even since this new administration regulation went into effect, veterans with service-connected disabilities are exempt from the payment of money are treated. As George Jams, the director of the VFW's national rehabilitation service, emphasizes in the January issue of FOREIGN SERVICE:

"It should be understood that no veteran requiring care will be refused hospitalization if he certifies he cannot pay for it in a private hospital, no matter what his financial statement shows. Of course, emergency cases will be accepted in any event."
 Then Mr. Jams goes on to state why the veteran lobby is opposed to the requirement of financial statements, and if Kerr Scott really means what he said—that he is "as solidly against socialized medicine as anybody"—he should ponder this: "The adoption of this new VA restriction," wrote Jams, "is taking away from you a benefit that formerly gave you, free of cost, the equivalent of a health and accident insurance policy."
 In other words, more than 20 million Americans are now eligible for free hospital care. Two out of three of the veterans being treated in VA hospitals are there for disabilities in no way connected with military service.
 We're for spending all the money necessary to care for men who were injured in the service. But we do resent doling out hard tax dollars to ease the ulcers and mend the bones of former servicemen whose conditions in no way is a result of their military service. Other civilians, those who suffer catastrophic illness, for example, and are saddled for years with tremendous hospital bills, more deserving of sympathetic treatment.
 We're a little disappointed in Mr. Scott for "cozening" the issue and copying up to the vet lobby at the same time. Any effort in support of a high way program which I feel is satisfactory and yet fails to say what such a program would be like.
 Legislators are frankly confused. Meanwhile, almost everyone agrees that North Carolina's primary road system is in bad shape.
 Tar Heel primary highways are indeed inadequate to meet the state's present and future needs. But instead of wrangling over technicalities and personal annoyances, the governor, legislative leaders and highway officials should sit down in peace and work out sensible solutions to the problem. Obviously compromise will have to be made, but after all, American democracy is based upon a system of compromises.
 The chore will not be easy. The challenge is great. North Carolina has the most extensive highway plant under state jurisdiction in the entire nation. There are glaring deficiencies to be corrected, vast improvements to be made. These things can be done. They must be done.

Roads Are Not Built By Rhetoric

ANGRY gusts of another Great Debate are whistling around the periphery of North Carolina's legislative scene. In a field where controversy is the rule rather than the exception, a new family quarrel might not ordinarily stir great interest. But this determined conflict is fairly unique. It involves a Tar Heel governor and his State Highway Commission chairman—with each man leading opposing factions.
 Seldom in North Carolina history has such a severe rebuff been handed a top-level official by the state's chief executive. Mr. Hodges' road message was sharply worded but he talked sense to Tar Heels when he said that the highway fund "should be handled as an integral part of state government and not as a separate, unintegrated activity."
 Effective control of one area of state government cannot be developed apart from the total system—and this goes for taxation as well as departmental expenditures. After all, it is the individual taxpayer who must support the entire structure on his shoulders. If there are inequities, he feels them and must take the consequences.
 The State Highway & Public Works

Tar Heel Delicacy
How To Cook A Raccoon

By PAUL A. ROCKWELL
 In The Asheville Citizen-Times

WASHINGTON
 WILLIAM Chapman White, the versatile and always entertaining New York Herald-Tribune staff writer, devotes a recent column to the raccoon, in which he calls the animal a "ring-tailed scoundrel" and declares that it "has got 'em." He continues, "Up north, from the apple orchards of Nova Scotia to the last acres of New England and New York to the Great Lakes, the raccoons have thrived. Saying that the 'coon has become an abominable pest, he laments the passing of the college-boy fad of the 1910's for raccoon coats three yards wide. If people knew how really good raccoon meat is when properly cooked, the numbers of the animal would decline rapidly everywhere, and there would be no need of college boys wearing 'coonskin coats to keep its population in check.
 Reading White's article, I was reminded of this winter's wide-ranging expedition on which I was taken almost 21 years ago, by Capt. Frank Swan of Andover, and Dr. B. Hayes of Salisbury into the Snowbird Mountains in Graham County. Starting out from Andrews before dawn of a crisp late December morning, we drove to the foot of Hooper's Bald, left our automobile, and started to climb, following a rough trail.
 Late in the afternoon, we arrived on top of the Bald at the call of the Cottontail. There, where in those days hunting parties could be lodged and fed. The hospitable Mrs. Maguire cooked us a bountiful supper. Later, while we were sitting around the roaring fireplace in the comfortable kitchen, dining and living rooms, two other parties of hunters, one out for bears, the other for raccoons, arrived unexpectedly. Mrs. Maguire announced that she did not have food enough on hand for everyone, and that if we wanted to eat meat, we must "git out and git it."
TOO SQUEAMISH
 All the hunters bedded down for the night in a single large room. Before daybreak the next morning the three groups set out in different directions. My party saw no wild animals larger than squirrels and hoppers, although we found some remains of a wild boar which evidently had been killed by a bear and partially devoured. This winter we were too squeamish to carry back to Mrs. Maguire.
 The proper accompaniment of such a meat should be baked yams — preferably shipped from Tabor City, N. C., the nation's greatest sweet potato market—but none being on hand, Mrs. Maguire served us boiled Irish potatoes, fat, browned butter, water-spread grits, and pickled green beans, a hearty and somewhat quaint delicacy I have encountered only in the mountains of

yearling 'coons. The frightened animals were knocked in the head, speedily, carried up to the Maguire cabin, skinned, dressed, and turned over to our hostess.
SPECIAL RECIPE
 About midnight Mrs. Maguire served us a meal I have not forgotten. I never had eaten 'coon before, but not entirely because of my hunger I found it delicious so much so that I noted down Mrs. Maguire's way of cooking it. First, she parboiled the meat until it was tender in water to cover, to which she added about 2 teaspoons of baking soda to take away some of the gamey flavor. She then drained the meat carefully, put it into a huge baking pan, and with strips of fat, well-salted, home-smoked bacon, and put it into the oven until it was done. All Mrs. Maguire's secret was done on a wood-burned kitchen range, which means the temperature of the oven must have been around 400 degrees.
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MR. 'COON
 Cover With Fatback And Bake Till Done.

western North Carolina and east Tennessee.
 Since this adventure I have learned that another tasty way to prepare raccoon meat is to marinate it for 48 hours or more, in wine, olive oil, sliced carrots and sliced onions, a clove of garlic, a pinch of salt, and a pinch of thyme, parsley, chopped celery, salt and peppercorns. Cook the dish containing the raccoon meat on the lowest shelf of the icebox, and turn meat night and morning. When ready to cook, put flesh in a suitable dish, preferably earthenware, cover with strips of fatback or bacon, and bake until done in a medium oven, around 400 degrees. Baste from time to time with liquid from marinade.
 When I was a boy in South Carolina there were plenty of raccoons in the swamps and woods. They frequently were hunted for sport at night — "shooting 'coons," it was called.
 I have seen in winter at the picturesque Savannah City Market on Barnard Street dressed raccoons offered for sale. They are taken in the swamps and woods of the lower Savannah River. Savannah is the only place where I ever have seen raccoon meat sold, and I am an avid public market fan, visiting them in every city and town I visit at home and abroad.

Intercontinental Guided Missile: The Ultimate Weapon

By STEWART ALSOP

BY THOSE who should know, this country is now given about an even chance of beating the Soviet Union in the race to be first to get an intercontinental ballistic missile into the air.
 Although this whole subject may seem immensely remote to most people, it is one of the most important in the world today. It is a race which has already begun, and it is a race which will determine the ultimate fate of the world.
 The race for the intercontinental ballistic missile—the IBM, and this is a race which the United States is leading. The difference is that a man can hide, and a city cannot.
 As of today, at least, there is hardly even a theoretical defense against the true intercontinental guided missile, except to get the weapon first, to make it better, and to make it in greater numbers. Until recently, the effort to win the IBM race was made in red tape and hobbled for funds. Today, a greater effort is now a serious one. And it is already beginning to pay off.
STEPPING ON TOES
 If we beat the Russians to the IBM — and thereby avert what would surely be world catastrophe — a good share of the credit, according to those who know, should go to a youngish California engineer-businessman, called Trevor Gardner. Gardner was brought into the Air Force by Secretary Harold E. Talbot to get the long range missiles into the air.
 In the process, Gardner has stepped on a great many toes—so many that his appointment as assistant secretary of the Air Force has been held up in the Senate. But Talbot and Air Force Chief

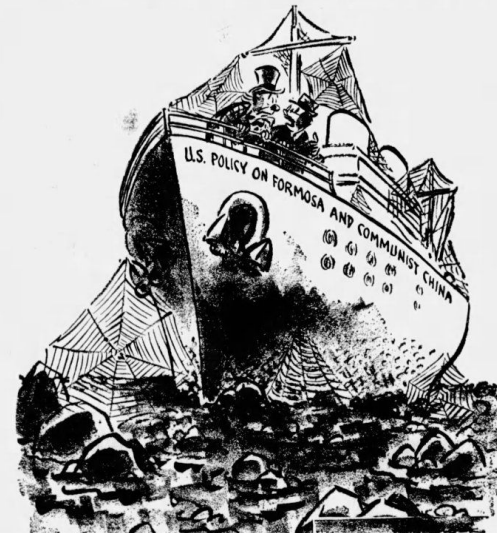
of Staff Nathan F. Twining have backed him up, for which they also deserve credit.
 By dint of toe-stepping, much has been accomplished. Pentagon red tape has been slashed. Able Air Force man, Brig. Gen. Bernard Schriever, has gone to the West Coast to ride herd on the big companies, like Northrop, North American, Convair, and Lockheed, which are doing the actual work on the missiles. The amount of increase in the budget for the missile effort has been fairly sharply increased. The amount of increase is hidden in the overall Air Force budget, but it is said to be substantial.
 As a result of all this effort, the timetable for our entry into the age of the long range guided missile has been revised downward all along the line. Most significantly, the State Department and the British Foreign Office are now negotiating for a 5,000-mile missile firing range, extending into the Atlantic from Florida to the Azores Islands.
THE SNARK
 The immediate reason for this negotiation is the SNARK, the jet-propelled, pilotless aircraft, guided by the stars, and which flies just under the speed of sound. But the SNARK is only the forerunner.
 Then comes the ATLAS, the true guided missile, flying more than twice the speed of sound. Then comes the mighty ATLAS, the true intercontinental ballistic missile which climbs an incredible 600 miles into space before it plunges to the kill. And at some point—depending on a decision which has not yet been made—there comes the first man-made, artificial earth-satellite. But, for the immediate future, ATLAS is the decisive weapon.
EVEN ODDS
 It will be a further report in this space on these strange and terrible gadgets. Here it is enough to say that in each case the pros-

pects for early success are measurably brighter than they were a year ago. But there is still no cause for complacency. Our chances of winning the IBM race have improved—but they are still no better than even.
 There is a position to judge believe that we could be almost certain of winning this race we must win, on one condition. This condition is a national sense of urgency, leading to a major effort on a war time scale to win the race. This would involve greater expenditures. But the concentration of energy and talent which a national sense of urgency brings forth is a more important element in the equation.
 And this sense of urgency is now lacking for a very simple reason. The secrecy syndrome from which this administration suffers has made the IBM an unmentionable subject. This in turn makes it impossible to acknowledge the people's winning the IBM race really exists—or even to take credit for the genuine advances which have been made.

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Commission is now spending \$200 million each biennium—one-third of the total cost of the entire state government. It should be subject to as much supervision, control and review as any other state agency.
 That there has been a lack of coordination is obvious—and the state is suffering for it.
 The highway commissioners have drawn up recommendations which the governor refuses to approve.
 The governor himself says he will "make every effort in support of a highway program which I feel is satisfactory" and yet fails to say what such a program would be like.
 Legislators are frankly confused. Meanwhile, almost everyone agrees that North Carolina's primary road system is in bad shape.
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'Hey - Does It Feel As If We're Beginning To Move?'



People's Platform

Local Fans Should Back The Hornets
 Charlotte
 Editors, The News:
 I WOULD LIKE to express a little opposition to a letter published in the Jan. 17 issue of The Charlotte News.
 Like the writer, I do not agree entirely with the way Washington operates our club, the Charlotte Hornets, and their way of handling the players. But I definitely cannot agree with his advocating that they sell the park and do away with the team. I have been a fan since 1929, still am and always will be. I would hate to contemplate spending a whole winter, spring and summer without having Hornets around to see and to read about on the sports page.
 I do not like Mr. Quincy's letter to Mr. Griffith, but it was written before the true meaning of Mr. Griffith's letter became known, as brought out by Mr. Howser.
 We have had good and bad teams but a first division team in this fast Class A South Atlantic League will draw its fair share of fans. We have also had good local amateur teams but they cannot be compared with a professional team.
 I appreciate the fine ball park Washington built and we are promised a team that will hold its own in competition with the other seven. Let's back them up.
 —H. Y. YANDLE

Graham Queried About 'Fascism'
 Charlotte
 Editors, The News:
 WE APPRECIATE Mr. Billy Graham's speech, but he did not give the people an understanding as to his stand about the Fascist racial and class religion, the Fascist racial class doctrine, the Fascist racial class and class schools in our country.
 Our country is governed by law which forbids these Fascist concepts. Please, Mr. Graham, make your speech about the underclass which is of so much importance to our country and our laws of our country.
 —MRS. J. D. BIGGERS

School Of Design Appreciates Support
 Raleigh
 Editors, The News:
 RE "Goodyby" Williamsburg And Gothic" (News, Jan. 10).
 You were most generous in the things you said regarding the School of Design at North Carolina State College and it is certainly comforting to have the kind of support you have given us.
 —HENRY L. KAMPHOFFNER
 Dean, School of Design

Curtain Going Up On Phase No. 2

SENDING the atomic submarine NAUTILUS on its first test run in Long Island Sound this week, the United States ushered in a new era in the development of nuclear energy. It was proof that man, with his genius, had at last harnessed the power lurking in the smallest particles of matter to move 3,000 tons of steel beneath the surface of the sea.
 When the NAUTILUS pulled away from her Connecticut dock, it also meant that the United States had won another significant victory in the atomic power race—a victory Uncle Sam had to have. American ingenuity had produced an underwater monster which was capable of becoming the deadliest, most versatile craft in history. It could well revolutionize naval warfare.
 The NAUTILUS is important because shipping is so important. In another war—unless it begins and ends in a blinding cataclysm—millions of tons of war materials and supplies will have to be herded across the seas for U. S. land and air forces. Many of these items simply cannot go by air. The Korean experience proved that. Unless the Navy controls the seas a powerful enemy could defeat American military forces based overseas without firing a shot.
 But submarines with the speed, power, maneuverability—and probably nuclear weapons—of the NAUTILUS class would make it hazardous for any enemy vessels to venture out of port.
 Although the NAUTILUS is an instrument of war, it is also a forward step in the development of atomic energy for peacetime purposes. The U. S. has known for some time that it can build a huge stationary nuclear power plant that can supply whole cities with electricity. Now the nation's scientists are proving that a relatively small, compact power plant can be built for moving vehicles.
 It is unlikely, however, that Americans will be driving "automobiles" anytime soon. The heavy shielding necessary for protection against lethal radiation still presents serious problems.
 But until this week, the world had witnessed only the first spectacular phase of atomic energy—the shattering crunch of energy released by a bomb. Now another important phase is in the making.
 If the lessons learned are adapted and extended to peaceful channels, the opportunities for the betterment of mankind will be limitless.

Drew Pearson's Merry-Go-Round

WASHINGTON
A VITALLY important, sometimes bitter debate, is taking place inside the joint chiefs of staff concerning the future policy in China. Upon its outcome may depend whether the U.S.A. gets embroiled in a shooting war in China. Here are the chief participants in the argument:
 1—Sen. Knowland of California, chief champion of Chiang Kai-shek, who breakfasted with Eisenhower last week, it wasn't the first time he had argued with the over the Tachens Islands. Knowland has been in and out of the White House privately, like a shuttlecock.
 2—John Foster Dulles, also in and out of the White House, has been opposing the big, blunt senator from California.
 3—Adm. Arthur Radford, persuasive, dynamic chairman of the joint chiefs of staff, also has beaten a path to the door of the White House. He opposes Dulles, sides with Knowland, claims that if the Reds take the Tachens Islands, Formosa will fall next.

Administration Split On China Policy

Here is the background of this vital, behind-the-scenes debate.
 Last summer, as already published, the joint chiefs of staff recommended that the United States intervene to help Chiang Kai-shek defend the island of Quemoy, 12 miles from the mainland, in the mouth of Amoy harbor. Gen. Matthew Ridgway, Army chief of staff, was the lone dissenter. He feared Communist China would get dangerously embroiled with China.
 Since that time, the 7th Fleet has supplied Chiang's forces on Quemoy with food and munitions. And a state of indecision as to whether we would or would not defend Quemoy has prevailed. Eisenhower has indicated to advisers only that he would decide the matter when the time came.
 The Tachens Islands, about 200 miles off the China coast and about 12 miles away from the mainland, also called Matsu, the joint chiefs of staff—later, here in this article—recommended that we defend the Tachens as "necessary for the defense of Formosa."
 In this, Gen. Ridgway did not dissent. He agreed with Adm. Radford, even though the two have been at loggerheads over Far Eastern policy most of the time.
 Here are the reasons the joint chiefs of staff gave the White House as to why the Tachens Islands are essential:
 —The United States, working through the Nationalists, has radar on the Tachens, which can spot approaching Red planes as they head for Formosa.
 —Red China would use the main Tachens Islands as a jet base, and its capture would give the Communists a strategic jump-off place to attack Formosa.
Air Base Sought
 This is because Red jets now operate from about 80 miles south of Shanghai—the nearest hard-surfaced air base to Formosa. At one time the Reds tried out a nearer dirt runway air base, but had some bad crashes. So if they take the Tachens, they gain control of a good, though small, hard-surfaced airfield from which they could attack Formosa more readily.
 The Tachens are a group of small islands, some of which are not strategically important.

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