

Natural Gas Issue Sizzles

By CONGRESSIONAL QUARTERLY

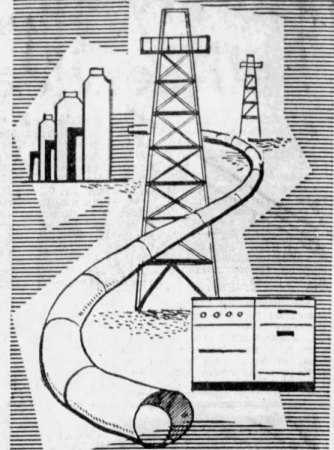
WASHINGTON ADLAI E. STEVENSON—or any other Democrat likely to be nominated for President in 1956—is sure to face a major task in defining party policy on a number of important national issues.

The question was posed in the House late in July, a majority of Democrats voted against exemption, a majority of Republicans for exemption. The bill—which squeaked by, 209-203—would not have been passed without the votes of 71 southern Democrats who voted with the GOP majority and against the bulk of their own party.

ROLL CALL Voting to exempt producers from federal regulation were 123 Republicans and 98 Democrats. 73 of the latter from the South, included among the 73 southern Democrats were delegations from Texas, Louisiana, and Oklahoma, which together with California, are the nation's leading gas-producing states.

ROLL CALL Voting against the bill were 136 Democrats and 67 Republicans. Of the latter, one-half came from the urban East. Thirty-five eastern Republicans opposed the bill and only 23 supported it. Not all eastern districts are equally urbanized.

ROLL CALL Voting for the bill—and against public housing—were 217 members (151 Republicans, 66 Democrats) whose districts average 56 city dwellers for every 100 persons. Against the bill—and for public housing—were 188 representatives (152 Democrats, 36 Republicans) whose districts average 72 city dwellers per 100 persons live in cities in those districts represented by the 85 GOP members who voted against the bill.



Confusion Flows From A Closed Door

PERSPECTS for continuing Good Samaritan Hospital's vital community service are now wrapped in a blanket of public bewilderment generated by closed doors to a public body.

When the press was barred from an "informal meeting" of hospital and county officials Monday there was only one way for reporters and the public to find out what occurred.

One commissioner quoted hospital officials as saying Good Samaritan is in desperate financial straits and might have to close its doors by mid-1956.

A Burnished Theme For 'Mr. Fixits'

BETWEEN flag stops on her busy Charlotte timetable yesterday, Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt spoke firmly and earnestly of the responsibility for preserving the United Nations in this era of uneasy calm.

There is no politics in this sort of task—just people trying to help people.

There are Mr. Fixits on duty to help repair the peace too and they capture most of the limelight. Some fairly large conflicts have been prevented or stopped since 1945 (Iran, Indonesia, Palestine, India-Pakistan, for instance). There have been some misfires too but something important has been achieved, nevertheless.

It is not an inexpensive project—particularly for Americans. But it is still a bargain. The American Association for the United Nations, the organization that helped make Charlotte's United Nations observance so successful yesterday, reports that a single dollar given to UNICEF (United Nations Children's Fund) can provide 50 glasses of milk, cure a child of yaws (a crippling skin disease prevalent in the tropics) or protect 24 children from tuberculosis.

The Municipal Team Couldn't Wait

MORE than 1,400 strong, the City employees came to the front early in their "united giving" to the Charlotte-Mecklenburg United Appeal. The campaign does not open formally until Oct. 10, but municipal workers couldn't wait.

These fine people seem to realize that only as the community prospers do they and their neighbors prosper.

It is a fitting example to all who share their beliefs, their aims and aspirations for the continued growth and prosperity of the South's Green City. A hearty salute to a fine municipal team!

Charlotte's Golden Age In The Making

TO THE triumphant chords of Beethoven's monumental NINTH SYMPHONY, the Queen City opened a promising new chapter in its cultural history this week. It was the first regularly scheduled public event in David Owens Auditorium: A concert of James Christian Fjohl's Charlotte Symphony Orchestra.

Four local churches and the four great soloists all performed admirably. Hundreds of music lovers expressed hearty approval. A "golden age" of musical entertainment was obviously in the making.

For the symphony, it augurs a good auspicious beginning for what should be a long period of service to the city.

DOWN, BOY, DOWN!

WHEN Edward Albert Christian George Andrew Patrick David Windsor, K. G., stepped behind the steam table at Washington's Union Station lunch room the waitress was horrified.

Her discipline is remarkable, come to think of it.

True, there once was a lady who coaxed a king off a throne, yet it seems to us that the shooting of a ringer man from a pile of vittles is rather more of an accomplishment.

Edward Albert Christian George Andrew Patrick David will be honi-soft-quinal-y-pensed before he tries that again.

To do the Duke of Windsor justice, he thought it was a cafeteria. We hardly blame him. As to some restaurateurs, you can't tell. Often the impulse is to get up and dish it out yourself. However, a chap can come a cropper at this, too.

It is claimed that Americans of 50 years ago were stronger. But they could hardly have lifted a \$20 sack of groceries, as those of today do with ease.

The city boy was entranced by his first visit to the old family farm. Out exploring by himself he found several empty milk bottles in the grass. Rushing back to the house, he shouted: "Hey, Grandma, I just found a cow's nest!"

A Miami accountant accused of preparing fraudulent income tax returns pleaded not guilty by reason of insanity. That's what those forms can do to a man.



People's Daylight County Commissioners 'Uninformed'

Charlotte Editors, The News: JUST how ridiculous, unreasonable and dictatorial that public servants can become is typified by the recent resolution of the Mecklenburg County Commissioners, prohibiting "discharge of any rifle greater than .22 caliber" within the county, without written consent of the Commissioners, or on an approved range certified by its political group.

The charge that the discharge of firearms in the county "is a constant source of danger" to residents and property is but a flimsy and unfounded excuse to foist this impediment upon riflemen, to say nothing of imposition placed upon legitimate dealers in firearms and supplies.

It is also clear that the Commissioners are unaware that there are a dozen or more varieties of .22 caliber more powerful than the so-called "higher calibers," i.e., .24 and .26. Metric measures, bullet size and velocities which are commonly assumed to constitute the higher calibers, do not necessarily make for greater danger. On the contrary the .22 rifle cartridge, because of its low velocity and exceptional tendency to ricochet is by far the greater danger.

This unwarranted resolution has all the aspects of an emboldened attempt by persons unqualified on the subject to force the rifle owner—target shooters and hunters alike—to discard his weapons and desert the sport for which these weapons are employed—expensive, precision instruments with respect to which, for the most part, the owners take pride in their efficient and sale value under any given circumstance.

There appears no substantial evidence of rifle accidents in the county, to justify the charge of "constant danger" to its residents. Obviously the Commissioners, in compounding their resolution are pathetically uninformed on the subject of rifles. This is evidenced by the fact that while seeking to prohibit use or rifles of a higher caliber than a .22, they give unqualified approval of the little rifle .22 which according to reports of the National Rifleman's Association, is responsible for more accidents than any other caliber.

Before this unhealthy resolution becomes effective, it is suggested that the Commissioners inform themselves of the essential facts of rifles, calibers and ballistics, and consult informed riflemen, who there are many in the county. Meanwhile, rifle owners should register their protest against this unjustified black list.

Drew Pearson's Merry-Go-Round

WASHINGTON THERE has been so much confusion over the freedom-iron ballroom launchings that it is time the American public get a full picture of the facts. Premier Bulganin recently told Chancellor Adenauer aside at a Moscow garden party and showed him a balloon that had come down over Russia carrying anti-Communist propaganda and asked him to stop the balloon-launching. Adenauer seemed upset about the matter, and the U. S. ambassador in Moscow, Charles Bohlen, was upset because Adenauer was upset.

Freedom Balloons Irritate Bulgarians

It so happens that I made the original arrangements for balloon-launchings from West Germany, and the German government had nothing to do with it. The American government also has nothing to do with it, except in a purely negative way. The project was entirely one of private enterprise, carried on chiefly by the Crusade for Freedom. With one exception, it has remained so ever since.

Weak-Kneed

Bohlen called the State Department that Adenauer appeared weak-kneed and did not stand up to Bulgarians. Ambassador Bohlen, incidentally, thinks that the balloon propaganda is effective. He wants it continued.

Sherman Adams, Not Nixon, Fills Constitutional Vacuum

By WALTER LIPPMANN



NEW YORK AFTER Mr. Sherman Adams and Mr. Brownell returned to Washington last week, a decision was taken about the delegation of the President's powers in the event of his disability. It was that the ceremonial functions, so far as they were necessary would be performed by the vice president. It was also decided that the substantive powers of his office were to be exercised for the President by the White House officials.

population. Again, the urban-rural conflict colors the public housing issue. Against the bill—and for public housing—were 188 representatives (152 Democrats, 36 Republicans) whose districts average 72 city dwellers per 100 persons live in cities in those districts represented by the 85 GOP members who voted against the bill.

LEGAL POINT The constitution, as we know, lacks a clear provision about how the President's functions are to be performed in case of partial disability. In a case of total disability we know what the constitution intends—that, as long as the disability lasts, the vice president shall perform the essential functions and duties but shall not hold the office of President. But there is no constitutional provision for the President's functions at least up to the final stages of decision. Mr. Adams can aver that as long as the President can perform his official constitutional function of giving formal assent to acts done in his name, the White House department is at least as well qualified as the vice president to act for the President.

dismissing minorities are in a strong position to determine the fate of legislation. The inter-party struggle in 1956 will tend to encourage greater party unity. But on many issues, Republicans and Democrats will face rebellious minorities.

RIGHT TO DECIDE Until the President's illness it was possible to ignore this problem, to concentrate on drafting legislation and to forget everything else. That is no longer possible, if, as we must assume, Eisenhower cannot be drafted. The problem is now what position, if any, the President will take about the choice of his successor. The acquiescence of Mr. Adams last week in holding on firmly to the President's powers will have the effect of keeping open the President's right to decide whether or not he will favor any particular successor, and if so whom.

That a bridge that the President cannot afford need not cross now. The only thing that needs to be said about it is that if the President decides to have an open race for the 1956 nomination, the decision should not be delayed too long for it will take time for the available men, of whom there must be at least half a dozen, to prove themselves to the country.

Quote, Unquote

In modern science making great contribution to juvenile delinquency? It appears so. Youngsters who used to have to refill their squirt guns from faucets and water fountains now are supplied by manufacturers and retailers with plastic refueling containers holding from a pint of water upwards, with rubber hose and water pistol attached.—SHELBY (N. C.) Star.

Two angry candidates of opposing politics believe rubbed at each other. Friends stepped in to separate them. Each struggled to get at the other. The first, seeing the extremely violent nature of his opponent, exclaimed: "More of you men hold Jones! One man can do it!"—Lamar (Me.) Democrat.

Freedom Lifts

The latter organizations have launched 342,700 balloons over Poland, Czechoslovakia and Hungary in the last year and a half carrying 200,000,000 leaflets. But they have continued the propaganda to news of the outside world, to reminding the people behind the iron curtain of their friendship and their lost freedoms.

It is now possible to send them all the way to Russia, this has not been done by the Committee for Free Europe or Free Europe Press.