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Time For The Coroner's Post-Mortem

THE OFFICE of the coroner is one of the most notable anachronisms in the judicial system of the United States... To determine by judicial process whether a ruptured appendix was the cause of death is only slightly less ludicrous than to ask a jury to decide whether a pain in the abdomen warrants the removal of the appendix.

It seems that a county coroner found a body of a small child floating in a river. The coroner conducted an inquest, received the required fee and the body was returned to the river. The identical procedure was repeated by other coroners downstream.

In Massachusetts, the coroner system was soon replaced by medical examiners appointed by the governor. Such a simple solution would not be possible in North Carolina for here the coroner is a constitutional officer.

In 1951, the National Municipal League completed an exhaustive study of the antiquated coroner system and recommended a model statute all states might adopt. It called for medical examiners who were trained pathologists with extensive experience in investigating violent deaths.

A year later, the National Conference of Commissioners on Uniform State Laws became interested in reforming the coroner system. Its "model statute" would create a Commission on Post-Mortem Examinations of ex-officio officers such as the attorney general, the public health chief and the deans of the medical and law schools of the state university. The commission would appoint a chief medical examiner who would direct the Office of Post-Mortem Examinations. The chief would be required to be a physician with a minimum of two years' post-graduate training in pathology. Among other things, the examiner:

Must be infallible in determining the direction of a bullet through the body. He must know how to remove the organs and the neck in order to determine manual strangulation without destroying either the tissues to be examined or structures vital for subsequent embalming. He must know whether a hemorrhage in the brain caused the fall or whether the fall caused the hemorrhage. He must know how to determine whether death was due to drowning or whether the victim was dead when thrown into the water. He must know whether the multiple fractures resulted from a fall or from being struck by a motor vehicle. If death resulted from a fall he must know how to look for evidence to distinguish among accident, suicide and homicide. All these basic problems and many others, especially those concerning surreptitious poisoning, must be understood by the pathologist who is an expert in legal medicine.

THE PROBLEM of mysterious deaths is not inconsequential. The Census Bureau reports that approximately 10 per cent of all deaths in the United States result from violent or unnatural causes. In a large metropolitan area there is another 10 per cent surrounded by obscure causes and unknown circumstances which also require analysis.

A uniform medical examiner system in each of our 100 counties is one of North Carolina's important needs. It deserves a place near the top of the next General Assembly's agenda.

THERE is no sensible reason, in this modern day, why every North Carolina county should not be served by a trained medical examiner (preferably in pathology) to investigate all cases of death involving mysterious circumstances.

Perthmore, the office should be appointive rather than elective; the selection to be made by an independent commission. The examiner should also be paid an attractive salary and be authorized to direct a competent medical staff with access to extensive laboratory facilities.

Such a complete reform—compulsory for every county—would admittedly be difficult to achieve. Next to the sheriff, the coroner is the oldest judicial officer in the Anglo-American legal system. It is so old, in fact, that even the century of its creation is in dispute. But the Articles of Eyre in 1194 provided that the justices should select four individuals to safeguard the pecuniary interest of the king. As the designated representatives of the crown (for that henceforth, their duties included everything from protecting the royal fish to determining the king's interest in "unexplained death,"

the coroner system came to America with the English settlers. The first loud protests were raised in the 1870's when a common practice in Massachusetts was brought to the attention of the people.

New Hope For A Voice Of Freedom

FROM the least of the sins of the Peron dictatorship in Argentina was its murder of LA PRENSA, a world-famous newspaper which made a habit of printing facts even after it was warned that Peron was to be the sole judge of what was fact. So repeat and enduring was La Prensa's reputation that its suppression became a symbol of the ruthlessness of the now-dead dictator.

Peron did not use the sham of expropriation in the name of the people. He seized the paper in 1951 without compensation to the family that had owned and operated it since 1869, and turned it over to the politically-dominated General Confederation of Labor, which made of it a mouthpiece for Peron's propaganda mills.

When Peron was chased out of Buenos Aires during the recent revolution few observers were ready to concede immediately that the threat of dictatorship was ended. The first wanted the answers to several questions. Would Peron's exile be complete enough to prevent him from scheming to return to power? Would the new regime call free elections? And would LA PRENSA be returned to its owners?

The new government pledged free elections and Peron at last was removed to Paraguay. But LA PRENSA remained in the hands of the labor federation through agreement of the government that the courts must decide its fate.

Now there are reports that the labor group itself is on the verge of dissolution. Individual workers are ousting the "leaders" chosen and assigned to them by Peron. The stooges are so frightened by this unsure of democracy that they have appealed to the new regime for protection. These reports are substance for hope that workers will throw off their political domination and give up their ill-gotten and captive newspaper voluntarily.

The workers could have no better ally than the fight for freedom than the newspaper itself. But it must work for freedom and decency until it is free.

Whew!

DR. THOMAS K. CURETON is trying to be helpful here. In the future he should have a care with those tests of his.

After trying to make everybody feel like a lazy slug by saying Americans are overworked and underworked sottes, the University of Illinois specialist suggested this test:

"Run in place for two minutes at 180 steps per minute and hold the breath afterwards for 30 seconds," and then asked:

"Can you do it?" The answer is no. And breathlessly we dedicate ourselves to the proposition of economist Bardsley Ruml who found all his impulses for physical exercise quickly passed when he stretched out on a couch to consider what he should do.

From The St. Louis Post-Dispatch

COOL NEW DREAM

CONSTRUCTION of a six-lane overpass to carry the proposed Mark Twain Expressway over the Wabash Railroad tracks in St. Louis county near Cool Valley... we read in the news item, and couldn't get any further. Cool Valley, Duke Ellington wrote a piece called WARM VALLEY for Johnny Hodges' sax, and it is full of lous flowers, and soft breezes and it's a young town. But Cool Valley, Don't know but what we like it even better.

We can see it now. A little break between two gentle ridges, with houses of frosty white, topped by moon-blue roofs. Small, playful and friendly breezes—a later improvement on air-conditioning—flood around it. The grass is a light green, the flowers pastel, and

everyone looks as if he had kept cool with and since Goldilocks. That old dream of the Kentucky colonial sitting on the wide, white-colored portico and looking out over his acres of lawn, sipping a mint julep—that old dream will have to take a back seat. It isn't in a class with the poetry we have in mind now. Cool Valley, Cool, man, Cool.

An instructor predicts that the dance will never die. Not as long as they let certain boxers crawl into the ring.—GREENVILLE (S. C.) PIEDMONT.

The best after dinner speech we ever heard was "Water, I'll take the check."—CHARLESTON NEWS & COURIER.



People's Platform Negroes Deserve A Hospital

Editors, The News: I DON'T believe the City Council, County Commissioners and citizens of Charlotte should permit Good Samaritan Hospital to close.

It would be an injustice to our colored people. We love good colored people in Charlotte. They are God's people.

We have spent millions of dollars for amusements and white hospitals. There should be a drive to raise money to keep Good Samaritan open and, as soon as possible, a bond issue to build Negroes a modern hospital on large grounds with plenty of parking space somewhere on Statesville Rd.

Build it as it can be enlarged at a minimum cost as the population increases. Build a home for the nurses at the same time. I truly believe this is a duty that every adult in Charlotte and Charlotte owes these people, and I feel this should be done at once.

If we don't we are doing our colored citizens an injustice. Don't stick up a makeshift addition to Memorial that can never be enlarged for them. That's all wrong.

CHARLOTTE Negroes ought to have decent hospital facilities, either at Good Samaritan, at Memorial, at Mercy or somewhere else. This is a basic need. It cannot be overlooked. There have been so many commendatory reports and reports about the quality of available facilities that I am frankly confused. But it seems to me that if the Social Planning Council had a great, crying need for additional facilities during a survey that took nearly a year to make, that they need really exist.

It is up to the people of Charlotte to do something about meeting the need. And I mean both the white and the colored citizens.

If a Negro gets sick with a disease that is catching, skin skin alone will not save the white man from getting it. Germs don't stop at certain geographical boundaries or "White Only" signs. The state of health facilities for the

Negroes affects the health of the whole community. By protecting the Negro's health, the white man protects his own health at the same time. And he is helping to protect the health of the entire community.

Let's all of us, the good people of Charlotte (black and white), get something done about this situation. If it takes a little money then we will just have to sweat it out. But let's get something done. This problem will not wait. We will have to be taken care of right now.

Problem of Negro Health Won't Wait

Charlotte Editors, The News: I AM deeply concerned about the health of the Negro people of this city.

I am a retired man, but I feel that I can do something to help. I have always admired his sincerity and honesty, as far as I know, concerning government affairs, for we all must remember that he is a military man, not a politician. Yet he has done so best for the nation, and all of the people should appreciate what has been accomplished under his leadership.

Yes, we realize that there are lots of things to be done or so it would be perfect. But we are in the flesh and none is perfect. I feel and often feel the same way that the strain of being President helped to shorten the span of

life of the late Franklin D. Roosevelt. No other position in life has more strain on the brain of man than the job of being a leader of a business or a leader of a nation such as ours.

Our President needed to retire from public life after World War II, as he had done his part. I feel he would have been better off as far as his health is concerned.

Yet there are those who feel a man should never on until he does a day's work in their lives. Living at the expense of those who labor, I suppose.

I say retire them for they cannot keep the pace today on a job that is required by the job. Let's all join in prayer for our President for his speedy recovery to normal health again and may our Lord bless him and his and our nation at this hour as He has in the past. A nation that forgets God shall not stand.

Quote, Unquote

The chief problem of the head of a totalitarian country lies in keeping the stomachs of his subjects full and their heads empty. — Jackson (Miss.) State Times.

May: "Is your boy friend really as dumb as they say?" June: "Is he? When he got his letter for football, I had to read it to him!" — Memphis Press-Scimitar.

Stevenson's Hat Will Come Flying In The Ring Nov. 19

By MARQUIS CHILDS

AT A regional meeting of Democrats on Nov. 19, former Gov. Adlai Stevenson of this state will declare himself available for the nomination of his party in 1956. While Stevenson himself will not confirm this even to the political arm, he is coming in ever-increasing numbers to his law offices here, this is the confident expectation of his closest advisers.

As in the months leading up to the Democratic convention of 1952 Stevenson is again being accused of playing coy. From his perspective it is not coy — an accusation he resents but a conviction that if the leaders who control the machinery of the party want him to be their candidate again, knowing all about him and about the kind of campaign he would wage, then they will join as they did in '52 to make him their choice.

ADLAI STEVENSON Canny Or Coy?

ADLAI'S FUTURE If it works out as his dedicated adherers believe and hope it will, then the future for Stevenson will shape up more or less as follows: At a dinner speech the evening of November 19 he will decide for himself whether to make the run again, in that speech he will say that he can make only his own kind of campaign — a campaign based on the issues and not on personalities. If his party wants him to be the candidate, it must be on that basis.

The popular response to this declaration, both within the party and from independent voters, will give the impetus to the growing belief that he is the inevitable choice. He has a far better chance it is argued, to bridge the conflict within the party and his is the only name, as the opinion polls show, which evokes a large national response.

PARTY UNITY Although the decision is not finally taken, it is most unlikely that Stevenson's name will be entered in the presidential preference primaries which, starting with New Hampshire in March, have in the past stirred fierce interparty rivalries. In Stevenson's view the outcome of these primaries will not determine the nomination.

Speaking throughout the country in the months ahead, but not too often, Stevenson will emerge by midsummer as the choice of most of the southern Democrats. Then Democrats who want to unite to win. As the nominee of a united and revived party, he will not have to campaign on his own and with the help of eager amateurs as he did three years ago. Instead, he will have a strong and effective party organization solidly behind him.

POLITICAL HAMLET This is, of course, a rosy view. It may not turn out that way at all. Many Democrats are already saying that if he wants the nomination, then he must get out and fight for it.

They describe his reluctance to "get in there and fight" to his intellectualism, his egotism. But it may actually be the smartest kind of politics. It has been demonstrated in the past that there is nothing more fatal than continuously running for President. One example is Harold Stans who panted so long and

so avidly for the prize that he has just about eliminated himself from consideration. On the other hand, a modest reluctance, on the basis of "There must be someone better qualified than I am" has often had a salubrious effect. The outstanding example of this class is President Eisenhower.

ADDED INTEREST Since the President's heart attack in Denver, there has been a marked increase of interest in Stevenson, which has been reflected in his calling list and his correspondence. His speaking tour for delegates to the meeting with Senate Majority Leader Lyndon Johnson and a speaker Sam Rayburn were planned long before the President was stricken.

"People seem to think," Stevenson has said in recent calls, "that I should be more interested now. I am concerned with principles, beliefs, convictions. I believe the Democrats should have over the national government whether President Eisenhower ran for re-election or not."

WORDS FOR DEBTS As he has indicated in recent speeches, Stevenson accuses the Republicans of substituting words for deeds, of talking about schools, highways and farm prices but doing nothing about these and other problems confronting the country. He has felt, too, that hero worship of President Eisenhower has tended to "assessment" of the kind which is essential to healthy self-government.

This would have been demonstrated in the "assessment" under the Democrats was hailed as a great triumph for the President when at the Geneva conference last summer he sat down with the Soviet ruler to try to negotiate a truce in the cold war.

TARGET: GOVT More and more will be heard in his speeches about the mistakes of the Republican administration and the way in which those mistakes have been either ignored or glossed over. One of his close associates summed up his strong convictions and his reluctance to get in the party factional strife by way of the Presidential primaries this way: "Adlai Stevenson is not a Democrat but Republicans."

Chumps & Champs

Such Were The Joys.

By ROBERT C. RUARK

PALAMOS, Spain IT SKEMS strange to me to consider Bob Feller as an about-to-go-away athlete, a grizzled family man with kids ripe for college. It seems strange that most of the baseballers could hardly come aboard yet when I walked into the sports business.

About the only person I recognize in Jacob's Beach is Al Waxler, a former pitcher for the Los Angeles Angels. I've been away from the scene for so long I don't even know whether Evliya Finkel is still in the picture. I only just now remember that Lou Diamond was called "The Honest Brauneman" because he never stole a boxcar.

Apart from rascals, whom one must not dignify as athletes, there is not one practicing musician that I can remember as being current to the scene when I was in it. Some are coaches, sure, and some are managers, but I was moving out when Phil Rizzone broke in. I remember my first interview with Babe Ruth, and the way he walked off with three homers and a single in the last week he played. I remember Gehrig, who really never told anybody he was dying, and he was near death, and took a lot of abuse in the process. I remember Hank Greenberg's bad feet,

and the skirmish I had with Buck Newsum, and the fact that, on the day we had it, I saw Ken Overlin, the new midweight champion of the world, and informed him that I couldn't punch any harder than I could. I remember I am so old I remember Kit Klein, who had the prettiest legs I ever saw. They are long and slim and honey-colored. Some time later I met another skater, and her name was Sonia Henie, and the night I met her I got loaded and went to dine in Georgetown with the current managing editor of the Washington Post and Times-Herald, and Al Francis, who was then when he says it was a brown La Salle he drove when we were sports boys together. It was a GYEN LaSalle, like I said.

I remember Tony Galento and that silly business of the yogi getting into the ring with a punch that started in Bethesda. And the punch that Buddy Burch put Louis in my lap, which Life Magazine duly recorded and you could have scraped my eyes off with spoons, because I hadn't had any sleep. I remember catching Joe Louis in my lap.

This tells you I ain't no kid, folks.

Drew Pearson's War Clouds Gather In The Far East

Merry-Go-Round

WASHINGTON NEWS of the East has been off the front page since the President's illness, but the fact remains that the Joint Chiefs of Staff are definitely expecting serious trouble around Formosa this fall. It's also no secret that they intend to meet any serious trouble with atomic weapons.

Ready For Trouble This was charged with Eisenhower before he became ill, so the military do not expect to clear any further questions of using atomic weapons with Denver. This of course may cause serious repercussions with our allies. In preparation for trouble, the Joint

Chiefs are quietly pulling American manpower out of the Far East and concentrating U. S. military strategy on air and sea power. Their air and sea units are prepared to hit back with nuclear weapons.

Rhee's Army Currently, three Army and one Marine division are stationed in the Far East. First to be withdrawn will be the First Cavalry Division in Japan, though it hasn't been announced yet. The Joint Chiefs are also considering pulling the Army's 7th or 24th Division out of Korea.

This would leave South Korea with practically no American support, but the

Joint Chiefs are counting on Syngman Rhee's army to stop any minor Red attack and on atomic weapons to turn back a major attack.

Similarly, American atomic power is poised around Formosa in case the United States should be embroiled in an outbreak between Communist and Nationalist China. The public doesn't realize it, but 10,000 American troops are stationed on Formosa. Of these, 1,500 are attached to the U. S. military mission. The remainder are Air Force personnel.

High Stake With such an American stake in Formosa, any Red attack on the Nationalist

held stronghold will certainly involve the United States. The likelihood of such an attack, in fact, is more imminent than the peace news out of Moscow would indicate. Pentagon strategists are convinced that the Chinese Communists are simply biding their time, that they will attack first Quemoy and Matsu, later Formosa. They expect the latter attack to come in 1956.

These strategists point significantly to big Chinese Communist withdrawals from Korea, and to the fact that troops are being moved to South China, right opposite Formosa. Despite sunny relations in Europe, these military prognosticators see war clouds gathering in the Far East.