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The ABC And The Old Shell Game

FIVE days ago the state ABC board fired a beer inspector in Onslow County while generously praising him. Why? The board has been so busy playing a shell game with the facts, it's hard to say. Every reason it has given has boomeranged, raising even more questions about operations of the department. Gov. Hodges has quite properly ordered an investigation.

Just What Do You Do About Dixie?

WHAT is the proper posture for a southerner when Dixie is played? Number us among what we reckon to be a great company of confused and self-conscious Confederates on this score. When the Scots Guard gently rendered the tune during its Coliseum performance Thursday last, the audience posture ranged from ramrod attention to hesitant squats. The spectrum also included sitters, edge-of-the-seaters, arm-wavers and nervous gigglers. Everybody knew it was Dixie, even the band and the men played it, but it was a call to arms, a regional anthem, a folk tune or a hal-laluh!

One might suppose those who stand quietly consider Dixie an anthem deserving respect. But if they are they are not offended by those who jump to their feet and emit what is hoped will pass as a

The Divorce Muddle: Neglect At Home

AMERICANS, experts in minding everybody's business but their own, have been paying far more attention to the divorce situation in Britain than in the United States. They are not interested in all in untangling the ridiculous knots that make such an unholy mess of the divorce system in the United States, where church and state seem satisfactorily remote.

From The Carolina Israelite.

THE CHOSEN PEOPLE

AT FROUSES POINT, N. Y., as you prepare to cross into Canada, or when you leave San Diego to cross into Mexico, the border patrol asks you some questions... where were you born, where do you work, etc. But if you were born in California, Gawah, or Texas, it's like the Fourth of July! They break out all the flags while Dixie, and smile you across the border without any further ado.

People's Platform

THE NEW Kings Mountain
ABOUT ONCE each year I become bold enough to take exception to something that I see in print. Your recent editorials concerning the over-emphasis of football at the new Air Force Academy are a case in point. There are four ways for a man to gain entrance to any of our first-rate academies, and they are: 1. By congressional appointment. 2. By special presidential appointment. 3. Be the son of a Congressional Medal of Honor holder. 4. By competitive examination from the active and civilian components of the armed forces. NO PLACE In the above, I see no place where it states that an outstanding football player is admitted to one of the academies. The rigors of the academic and physical requirements for entrance and continued attendance at the academies eliminate the possibility of a man who is not way above average in personal attributes. The entrance examinations are more thorough and difficult than the great majority of our college entrance exams. Once the hurdle of the entrance exams has been passed, a man must constantly apply himself to the utmost to even remain in school, much less participate in varsity athletics. Your sports editor, in his column of Thursday quotes former Central High Coach Bill Brannan as follows: BUILDING "I saw them (the USAFA) play one game, their first season, you know, and they're virtually toward a good varsity in a few years. They have a wonderful attitude and good team running the show. I'll say this: When a kid slumps in his bookwork, he's out. Thirteen of their best men sat out because of academic deficiency. How many other colleges are that strict in the middle part of a semester?" Varsity sports participation is a requirement at the academies,

Football Can't Carry Man Through AF Academy



"Bah! It's Still Too Modern... What's Wrong With A Good Ole Sandlot!"

and is recognized by educators the country over as a fine builder of character, teamwork, and individual leadership. Where, but in the armed services, could this type of training be more valuable? Now it's just a game but that same team captain will some day be an aircraft commander or a company commander leading men in the risk of the top spot in the AP roll.

HONOR Let the Air Force Academy send their scouts and recruiters to the Shrine Bowl and sell their school to the athletes participating there. It would be a signal honor to the boys who are so appreciated. They can pass the entrance examinations, secure an appointment, and keep pace with the very best standards of the institution, he can play football. If this be the

Are Atheists Really Such Bad Characters?

Rural Retreat, Va.
The News:
ATHEISTS are taking a dreadful beating these days. The atheist is slandered and vilified and charged with being un-American and communistic. How true are these charges—is the atheist one who denies or disbelieves in the existence of a god or gods really such a bad actor? I say that atheists are not bad citizens at all. The average American atheist is not a Communist. Some of the leading atheists in this country are ardently pro-capitalist. Being an atheist doesn't make one a Communist any more than being a Catholic makes one a Republican.

ABSENT Atheists are conspicuously absent from the jails and penitentiaries. In his book "Why I Quit Going To Church," Rupert Hughes tells us that about 90 per cent of the criminals in the penitentiaries are affiliated with one church or another. And, I might add, this doesn't mean that the remaining ten per cent

of the convicts are without religion. Merely being unaffiliated with a church doesn't make one an atheist.

Early in 1932, Eisenhower said: "It doesn't take any brains to be an atheist. Please allow me to name some 'brainless atheists.'"

A LIST
Kemal Ataturk, Sarah Bernhardt, Luther Burbank (member of Freeholders of America), Robert Burns, John Burroughs, Georges Clemenceau, Coleridge, Dante, Clarence Darrow, Alphonse Daudet, Debussy, John Dewey, Theodore Dreiser, Thomas A. Edison (member, Freeholders of America), George Eliot, Flaubert, Anatole France, Freud, Garibaldi, Stephen Girard, Gorky, Haeckel, Hesse, Humboldt, Husen, Juarez, LaPlace, Molere, John Stuart Mill, R. om a in, Roland, George Sand, George Santayana, Schopenhauer, Steinmetz, G. B. Shaw, Shelley, H. G. Wells, Mark Twain and Sinclair Lewis. I could name many, many more famous men and women who were atheists, but I trust the list I have made will suffice to show that they are not such a harmless lot.

—H. FRANKLIN WRIGHT

"Bah—Humbug!"



JOHN L.

For Farmers: A Reluctant Gesture

By JOSEPH & STEWART ALSOP
WASHINGTON
THE highest, noisiest, and most politically explosive domestic issue of the coming session of Congress is almost certain to be the farm issue. The present intention in the administration is to make one rather reluctant gesture of appeasement towards the farmers, and to stand pat otherwise. The gesture will take the form of a "soil fertility bank" which is an elegant way of saying that farmers will be paid to take part of their land out of production, and put it into grass or trees. No less than eighteen different plans for doing this have been considered, and the details remain undecided. But the final version of the plan is expected to call for an annual outlay of about half a billion dollars.

Ike Team Maps Freeze-Out Of All Other GOP Hopefuls

By DORIS FLEESON

CHICAGO
THE DESTINIES of the Republican Party are at this moment in the tight and virtually unchallenged control of national chairman Leonard Hall and leading figures of the Eisenhower Administration. They intend to name the next GOP candidate for president, and they hope he will be Eisenhower. If he declines to run, however, they expect to nominate Vice President Richard Nixon. THE DESIGN Their strategy of delaying their request for the President's decision to March or later is ostensibly designed to give him plenty of time to recover from his heart attack, to get the advice of his physicians, and to show him that the burdens of the presidency can be substantially reduced.

What it does also as a practical matter is to treat the New Hampshire maneuver which takes care of that state's former governor and perennial presidential candidate, Harold Stassen, now a special assistant to the President, who has been making a name for himself since August.

FRONT MAN The large and jovial national chairman, Len Hall, is the perfect front man for this maneuver, and it is widely suspected that a Thomas E. Dewey - Sherman Adams brain trust mapped it.

Radiating confidence, the chairman has dropped rosette hints but never really any promises. In dull moments he has sung the old Eisenhower and Nixon campaign train songs made up by reporters, and his hip-lead threatens to disengage his adroit stevensons.

NO WORRY He has induced a state of euphoria in upward of a hundred men and women of proved ability that makes them stick their heads above the crowd. They have laughed and played and given remarkably good answers to the morrow. They are not really sure that things are as Hall makes them appear. They know that when they hope Eisenhower will run, they refuse to worry.

This atmosphere was pierced to some degree in the closing hours of the meeting by a few of the Old Guard on the committee, mostly men who supported the late Senator Robert Taft.

He was referring obviously to the French walkout from the United Nations when the UN voted to consider the question of Algeria. This walkout occurred Sept. 20.

However, Henry Cabot Lodge, U. S. ambassador to the UN, visiting the Pres-

ident in his hospital in Denver had come out of the hospital to tell newsmen that he was feeling the public about the alleged problems allegedly discussed with President Eisenhower was the French walkout from the United Nations. Ambassador Lodge made this statement to newsmen on Oct. 24.

It was nearly one month later that the President at Camp David, Md., was heard to exclaim with surprise over the French walkout.

Dried Milk Deal One thing that has farmers is the apparent lack of interest in the farm problem in the highest places in Washington. Farmers generally recognize that the farm problem is not an easy one, but would feel happier if they were sure some real attention was given to the problem.

Two developments have recently increased their dissatisfaction. Press Report One was the statement to the press issued from Camp David that the farm problem "had not been discussed"

symbols of farm discontent. But Benson has no intention whatsoever of abandoning his flexible support program. And what Eisenhower has no intention whatsoever of firing Benson.

The President's attitude on this issue is much influenced by his brother Milton, who greatly admires Benson. As for Benson himself, he is quite simply convinced that high priced price supports are a snare and a delusion, and that farmers are beginning to see the light.

Agriculture Department surveys indicate that farmer sentiment is in fact turning against price supports, particularly in the South, where high supports have fixed cotton almost out of the world markets.

But to battle it out without budging an inch on the central issue. This is a prospect which delights the Democrats, who have laid careful plans to take the offensive at the first opportunity.

Secretary of Agriculture Ezra Taft Benson said fixed high price supports have become the twin

measures, starting with a bill to restore full 90 per cent supports. He is confident that it will pass with the votes of mid-Western Republicans.

SOIL BANK Democratic measures also include a "soil bank" (Humphrey claims that he originated the idea and that "Benson has been trying to steal my baby"); measures for altering the farm credit structure; for a food stamp plan to use up surpluses; for graduated support prices to favor the poorer farmers; and for a modified and experimental version of the old Brannan Plan.

Whatever the outcome of the battle on the farm issue, one thing is clear. The American government is now in the business of subsidizing the American farmer. It is in the business today, for the simple reason that the traditional one-family American farm system can hardly survive without subsidies. Despite a lot of mealy-mouthed oratory, the real issue is not whether the subsidizing should continue, but about how it should be done, and at what cost.

Windfall However, an investigation by a House Appropriations subcommittee claimed that the deal was arranged in order to give a profit to the big feed manufacturers.

"A substantial profit was possible as a result of the low price at which this vast volume of dried milk was sold," stated Harris Huston, investigator for the House committee.

"As the price," he reported, "was set following an informal conference with representatives of the American Feed Manufacturers Association held in Washington March 24, 1954."

Drew Pearson's Merry-Go-Round

WASHINGTON
HOW much the White House staff has been fooling the public about the alleged problems allegedly discussed with President Eisenhower was illustrated when he held his first meeting with the Cabinet and the National Security Council at Camp David on Nov. 21 and 22.

When Cabinet members arrived at Camp David and were greeted by Eisenhower, newsmen were near enough so they could easily hear some of the conversation.

Flabbergasted

And they were flabbergasted to hear the President remark in a tone of great surprise: "You mean to say that the French just got up and walked out of the assembly?"

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Public Misted On President's Briefings

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at the first Cabinet meeting with Eisenhower. Naturally it seemed to farmers that agriculture as one of the most pressing problems in the nation, should have been discussed at the first Cabinet meeting following the election.

Second is the litigation started against farmers by Secretary Benson for failing to mix or use up dried milk purchased from the government before Nov. 1, 1954.

Being Fined Farmers and feed dealers who failed to mix or use the milk by that date were being fined, in some cases up to \$5,000.

This litigation arises from the Agricultural Department's sale of 450,000,000 pounds of surplus dried milk chiefly to feed dealers and to a few farmers during the summer of 1954.

Big Sale At that time soyabean and cottonseed meal, which are mixed with chaff and chicken feed to bring up the protein content, were up in price. And so the price of feed was up in price. And so the price of feed was up in price.