



THE CHARLOTTE NEWS

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SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 1955

'The Helpless Babe': Forgotten

FA 3 per cent sales tax on milk were to be proposed to the legislature, whoever proposed it should be prepared to duck. This is the kind of thing on which experienced solons can ring the changes, really go to town. Moving phrases form themselves: "A tax on the sustenance of helpless babes" . . . "Will mother's milk be next on the list of things to be taxed" . . . "Another blow to the struggling farmer and dairyman" . . . But when along comes a bill to accomplish approximately the same thing, the legislature forgets the helpless babe and lets it ride.

As much may be said, we believe, for the merit of the bill itself. It is designed, carefully, to keep out competition. Free play of competition on prices is the essence of the system of private enterprise, and when it is outlawed the predictable effect is higher prices, and prices based on the costs of the less-efficient producers. The whole experience of regulation in this country—regulation of the railroads, air lines and truck lines, oil production, farm production and prices—has been to foster monopoly and higher prices and higher governmental subsidies. We are against most of it in principle and in practice, and we are against a state price on milk for the same reasons.

Do You Go That Extra Mile?

IT is getting easier and easier for the average American to make a living, or at least "to get by." This does not mean that there are not countless hardships cases in each community which deserve sympathy, understanding and financial assistance. However, by and large, life is getting softer and consequently less invigorating for the average employe, regardless of whether he works in an office or a plant.

If you are an employe, you must be familiar with the applicant for a job who comes to you and asks: "How short is the working day here?" "What holidays do you grant?" "How much hospital and group life insurance do you give?" "Are there plenty of coffee-breaks?" "Is the place well air-conditioned?" In short, "How soft and pleasant is it around here anyway?"

Now let's look at another type of worker—a rare soul indeed who may land some day in the White House. He or she comes to the employer and says: "I'm not very fancy to look at, but I don't expect any coddling. Don't tell me about all your fringe benefits, and all the other conditions of employment. This doesn't interest me much. All I want is an opportunity to get ahead by doing a tough job, no matter how rough the going may be. Just let me take off my coat, roll up my sleeves and go to work. I'm no clock watcher, and furthermore, I don't want to decide how much you are going to pay me until I've been here for a month and you see what I'm worth. Frankly, and in all modesty, I'm so constructed that I want to go that extra mile."

Would you faint dead away, or would you hire such a person instantly? Our guess is that you'd do both. We would.

Mecklenburg Can Always Secede

WITH swirls of eastern North Carolina tobacco smoke playing about his head, Rep. Ed O'Herron walked out of a Mecklenburg delegation caucus this week and allowed as how Mecklenburg had been invited to join forces with South Carolina.

share of representation is by secession. And should we wouldn't mind being a part of South Carolina, all right, but we kinda like our neighbors to the south. We're kissin' kin anyway. Our vast textile mills are cousins, our Celanese claims are linked our corn and cotton fields touch, we both drink from the mighty Ohio.

From The Washington Post & Times Herald

KEFAUVER'S RESOLUTION

THE state of Tennessee is notable for many things, including Estes Kefauver, and not the least interesting aspect of the senatorial phenomenon is that Kefauver won the senatorship on a platform pledging his support for Atlantic Union. Here he is again with his resolution calling for a convention of the NATO powers to explore the project. In his Senate speech of Feb. 8 he represented an impressive group of 15 senators. This group moreover, is backed by Secretary Dulles, who has spoken repeatedly in favor of Atlantic Union. The Truman administration by contrast, threw cold water on the resolution. The fresh resolution is more calculated to win support than the last. It is entitled "Resolution for an Atlantic Exploratory Convention" which more accurately represents what the sponsors are driving at than the title of the old Atlantic Union Resolution. The object was then and is now to discuss and only to discuss the possibility of such a union. It does not even commit the sponsors to a federal solution. Those who had imagined that the delegates would be called upon to vote an Atlantic Federation cannot now hide behind any such misunderstanding.

tary link is strong. There is only an intermittent and unsystematic effort, for example to harmonize the policy statements on relations with the Communist powers when those relations have posed a specific issue for common settlement. This has been obvious at various stages of the job of tackling Soviet diplomatic notes over Germany. Some organization of the Atlantic community, some use by a multinational group of part of the sovereignty of the component nations, is urgently necessary. We urge the acceptance of the Kefauver Resolution as now reframed.

Of course, the ultimate end in the minds of Atlantic Unionists is a federal setup for the Atlantic community. But they realize that what is first needed is a good deal of spirit within a minimum talk on methods of achieving in the political realm the unity of purpose which the peoples on both sides of the Atlantic are constantly asserting. This is why the new resolution is so open-minded. Though it is not instrumentally chaotic and confusing will continue to reign, as for example over Formosa policy. The political link in the North Atlantic Alliance is, it must be confessed, as weak as the mil-

"What funny names have those northeast Asia towns in the news here," remarked the man from Wounded Knee, S. D., as he read the Kadoka newspaper on his way to meet a friend at Ouelala—RAPID CITY (S. D.) DAILY JOURNAL.

People's Platform

Editorial Note: I DO NOT know when I enjoyed more unreservedly than I do now the editorial of the 22nd concerning the desire of some West Virginia politicians to change the name of their state. They have a point there! The real humbuggerous part of your editorial, though, was your advice to the South Carolinians that they change their name and let us Carolinians be Ahm, askered you dropped an H Bomb!

You are really "break-out" with your editorial, and I hope you have started a chain-action which will reverberate up and down the coast of Virginia to the stygian waters around Daufuski Island.

But why so charitable? We lie between two mountains of conceit—Virginia and South Carolina. Therefore, let us be good to ourselves. Let it be one who adopts a new name and let it be one which has no connection, neither euphonic, historical nor etymological, with the origin of and the pronunciation of the old name. Let us leave Virginia and South Carolina in their "resplendent isolation" within their self-styled royal "aristocracy" and become known by our state's name as the unpresented, thoroughly new stock we are, just Americans. We do not need to trade on memories, however erroneous they be.

I feel you should pursue the matter to a glorious conclusion.

Hang Tradition! Change North Carolina's Name

Take Politics Out Of Fire Department

I THINK that injustice has been handed our firemen for failure to report to a meeting on his day off.

This meeting was not in line of duty. And after the hardships of taking his life to serve the people of Charlotte, to call on him on his few precious hours off I think is terrible. I don't see how the chief of the Fire Dept. could possibly expect cooperation from a man after treading him in this manner. Get another chief and give us the fire department—those are my sentiments.

After talking to at least 50 others, it seems to be the public sentiment.

They should abolish politics in the fire department and run it more for the citizen's safety.

—J. WIMBISH SR.

day exaggeration which is ever-present in advertising, newspaper and magazine headlines, and every other media, and intended to move copies or items or whatever you may have for sale, is hardly a legitimate enough hinge on which to base an attack or expression of disapproval, it would seem to me. If you don't like their reporting, their content, or their choice of interviewees, why not say so?

In the headline, as in the story, it is obvious that this person tells "what comes next" instead of his own opinions and deductions are concerned. And while he may be more right or more wrong than the news analysts and diplomat you mention, the personal content of his expressed opinions is so obviously the basis for the story that an attack on the wording of the headline is absurd.

—ALAN NEWCOMB
Editorial Standard
Broadcasting Co.

The Ungentle Art Of Exaggeration

SINCE you folks seemed to consider it important enough to send your editorial page, I'll have to consider it important enough to comment on the editorial headline "Expert" and discussing in some sarcastic detail a story in U. S. News and World Report which used as its headline, this report: "KNOVS RUSSIA FROM THE INSIDE. TELLS WHAT COMES NEXT."

Letters Requested On Health Insurance

PLEASE help us plan some good Health Insurance Laws to protect the public from out-of-state insurance companies taking millions of dollars out of the state each year and refusing to pay health insurance claims because they claim pre-existing conditions. You can do this by writing your letters to write their members in the General Assembly to support health insurance legislation. Tell them to write their senators and representatives when they think they have been wronged by health insurance companies. You would be surprised how much weight a few letters addressed to them at the Capitol carries.

This is the year we can do something about health insurance



"How shall I sign this letter to People's Platform, dear? . . . 'Old Guard' (Conservative), 'Reactionary', 'Moderate Progressive', 'Liberal', 'Radical' . . ."

collections if the public will act now. The lobbying here against after health insurance laws by insurance officials and insurance lawyers is terrific.

—W. D. JAMES, M.D.
Vice-Chairman,
New Senate Committee on Insurance.

N. Y. Medical Examiners Trap Guilty, Absolve Innocent

By ROBERT BENDINER

Editorial Note: North Carolina's coroner system is under fire. One suggested substitute is the medical examiner system—one which would assure expert examination of bodies in cases of violent or unexplained deaths. This article relates New York City's experience in medical examination applied to crime.

A CRUISE, passed man of 70, barely seven from an air of primness by an ever-present cigar, Alexander Oscar Gettler, Ph.D., LL.D., is New York City's Chief Chemist in Toxicology, a title he has held since 1918, when the ancient coroner system was replaced by the Office of the Medical Examiner. In that time he has peered at weighed, dissected,

pulverized, and analyzed the vital organs and juices of more than 100,000 persons who had come to a sudden or suspicious end.

As a result of these labors, authors of crimes both near-perfect and crude have gone to the electric chair, and innocent persons have been spared insurance companies have saved hundreds of thousands of dollars on double indemnity claims in "accidents" that turned out to be suicides, and beneficiaries have made thousands on "natural deaths" that turned out to be accidental. Criminology in New York has been revolutionized and the deductive powers of fallible detectives have been all but replaced by the inflexible laws of the laboratory.

Dr. Gettler works in the drab brick Pathology Building of Bellevue Hospital at 29th Street and First Avenue, popularly known as the Morgue but referred to by its staff as "The Country Club." Here, at the rate of about 3,000 a year, are brought the remains of those who are thought to have succumbed to homicide in any of its forms: most suicides; all who die without benefit of doctor's certification; and most of the victims. However, Dr. Gettler is less interested in the solution of particular crimes than in the formulation of laws that may be applied mechanically to the less gifted.

SIMPLE BUT NOVEL
A prime illustration is the Gettler test for death by drowning. Until his time a coroner was apt to bring in an automatic report of drowning for any body fished out of the water. Such striking

evidence to the contrary say, the absence of a head, was enough to fire an exception to the rule, but nothing much short of that. Almost as soon as he took up his post, Gettler worked out the simple but novel test that he has used consistently ever since.

Among his early cases was that of a man and woman whose bodies had been washed ashore within the city limits. A cursory police examination indicated drowning, and if further work had been done the files would have been marked "suicide" and closed. But when Gettler had himself examined the bodies, they themselves confronted by a clear case of murder.

SALT TEST
Water that enters the lungs has two effects on the blood reaching the left chamber of the heart, depending on whether it is salt water or fresh. In the one case the chloride content is naturally increased; in the other it is diluted by fresh water. But the blood in the heart's right chamber remains the same, since no water enters there. The difference in the salt content between the samples drawn from the two chambers, therefore, indicates death by drowning.

Since in the case of the two bodies under discussion Dr. Gettler found no such difference, it was apparent that the couple had met their deaths in some other fashion and had been thrown into the water afterwards. Further examination revealed head injuries, and the case was turned over to detectives. Ultimately, as a result of this analysis of a few drops of blood, a local shopkeeper was arrested and confessed to having disposed of the pair as soon as possible.

TRAGIC ACCIDENT?
Another case involved a gas stove in the kitchen. In the morning the police were informed that a boy had just discovered his mother dead in her bed, apparently from illuminating gas. Investigation showed a broken gas fixture and indicated that the woman had died in a prone position. Her husband had left for work at seven, and there seemed to be nothing to suggest anything but a tragic accident.

But the woman's skin showed none of the pink discoloration usually found in gas poisoning, and the volume of gas had evidently not been great enough to harm an infant in the same room, although babies are more susceptible to gas than adults. By Gettler found that neither lungs nor blood showed the slightest trace of carbon monoxide. Whatever the volume of gas in the room, Addie Gilman had clearly been dead before the fixture broke—or was broken. Further examination showed the imprint of fingers on the back of her neck and a broken cartilage in her throat. The case ultimately drawn up against

Mr. Gilman was that he had suffocated his wife by holding her face against the pillow. Then he turned her over on her back, damaged the gas fixture, turned it on, and sufficed for work.

DEATH BY FIRE
Since fire victims invariably take in a large quantity of carbon monoxide, the same test has been used repeatedly to determine whether persons who seem to have died of death might not have been murdered first and the fire set later to cover the crime.

The "Case of the Two Undertakers" shows that taking a fatality of this sort does not always imply suicide. In this imaginative affair a mortician took out a large double-indemnity policy on his life, with his partner as beneficiary. A few months later their bungalow burned to the ground and a body was found in the ruins, burned beyond recognition. The beneficiary claimed that the victim was his partner and applied for the double indemnity. But a post-mortem examination, some of the internal organs were sufficiently intact to give Dr. Gettler a good day's work. The lungs showed an advanced case of pneumonia, where, and no missing, undertaker had been seen in perfect health 19 hours before the fire; there was no trace whatever of carbon monoxide poisoning, and formaldehyde, of all things, was found in various organs, indicating that the body had once been embalmed. The obvious, and correct, solution was that the plotters had made use of a "customer" to promote an insurance swindle.

POLITICAL PLUM
When the coroner's office was a political plum and the post of coroner a politician's sinecure, a really adroit murderer had a reasonable chance of escaping prosecution. Autopsies were rare under the coroners and post-mortem chemical analyses unheard of. Dr. Gettler's presence in the post of coroner in the city capable of giving a considered opinion in matter of toxicology and in price of their "expert" services, requested perhaps once every four or five years—came as high as \$500.

Even now, Gettler says, medical students get practically no instruction in the subject. As a result, he thinks, a few general practitioners know a case of strychnine poisoning when they see it. "They're all looking for rare diseases," he is not himself an M. D.

SOURCE OF PRIDE
New York still ranks well up in the tables of crime statistics for its murder rate. But for fancy homicides, for "perfect crimes," and especially for poisoning, it has undoubtedly become the least attractive state in the United States. For a detailed story on Dr. Gettler exact a not only from a corpse, but the subject is his greatest source of pride—he has faithfully and painstakingly instructed others in the magic art of reading cadavers.

'How About A Good-Will Experiment?'



Drew Pearson's Merry-Go-Round

TWO angry Democratic Congressmen invaded the GOP cloakroom the other day, cornered an elected Republican called "X N X" liar and invited him to take his choice as to which he preferred to fight.

The two belling Democrats were Jim Richards of South Carolina, chairman of the staff Foreign Affairs Committee, and Wayne Hays of Ohio. The startled Republican, Jim Fulton of Pennsylvania, who sometimes votes with the Democrats, decided that this was no time for Democratic fratricide. He declined both offers.

Cloakroom Showdown

The new brawl was over a new leak that Fulton earlier had blamed upon Hays. The Ohio congressman retorted that he had been out of town when the information was leaked to the press and demanded to know from Fulton who had

Shouts From A Carolina Congressman

accused him. Fulton named Chairman Richards.

Who's A Liar?

"If you say I blamed Wayne for that leak you are a X N X" liar," Richards opened the conversation. "I didn't say that," backtracked Fulton.

"You are a X N X" liar. That's what you

just told me" shouted Hays, doubling his fists.

"You are a X N X" liar on one count or the other," commented Richards, still hot under the collar.

Highway Hassle

A series of backstage hassles took place inside the White House before President Eisenhower finally sent his high way message to Congress.

Passing The Buck

First it was scheduled for Jan. 27, then lastly sidetracked until the first week in February. Next it was postponed another week to Feb. 14. Feb. 14 came and went without any valentine reached Congress from the President. Next it was scheduled for Feb. 15, but once again postponed to Feb. 22 when it was finally dispatched, without, however, any definite finance plan. The buck was passed to Congress.