

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 1955

**L'Affaire Harlan: The Big Stall**

SOUTHERN senators did not distinguish themselves as statesmen by using John Marshall Harlan of New York as the butt of their resentment over the Supreme Court's segregation decision.

Judge Harlan was nominated to the high court bench last year. The Senate Judiciary Committee only got around to holding hearings on the appointment last week. Certain Dixie senators, meanwhile, have been exceedingly busy raising objections to the New Yorker on the flimsiest possible grounds.

The strategy, of course, was pegged to the possibility that the longer an appointment to the Supreme Court was delayed, the longer decrees implementing the anti-segregation ruling would be delayed.

First of all, this strategy clearly has no moral validity.

Second, it is the strategy of desperation and despair for, ultimately, the decrees must come. They cannot, nor should they, be delayed indefinitely.

Third, the work of the nation's highest tribunal was being held up while Senate committees avoid "objections" which were almost too trivial to discuss seriously.

The anti-Harlan arguments were confined largely to three parts:

He was a Rhodes scholar. "We do believe he is 'inexperienced.'"

He was a member of the advisory board of Atlantic Union.

Sen. Johnston of South Carolina even raised fears that Judge Harlan might "put the United Nations above the United States constitution."

The charges are too vague and meaningless to merit thoughtful consideration. Judge Harlan seems well suited for the Supreme Court bench. He has been an eminent member of the New York bar. He is an Eisenhower appointee to a federal district judgeship. We believe that he should be confirmed without further delay—so the court can get on with its work.

**Faulty Brake Fluid Shouldn't Be Sold**

IF THE BRAKES on your car never gave out at a crucial moment, you may not be particularly interested in their performance. If they did give out—well, congratulations on your indeductibility.

Faulty brakes are not a major highway hazard. Speeders and drunks still hold top dishonors. But serious questions have been raised recently about brakes and, more specifically, brake fluid standards. Motor Vehicles Commissioner Ed Scheidt and the General Assembly ought to do some investigating.

Our concern over brake fluids stems from statements made recently by a number of safety officials and automotive experts, whose comments were reported on this page Feb. 19. Some of the men in the automotive trade contend that over half the brake fluids on the market are dangerous because they may not function in extremely hot or extremely cold weather, or after prolonged subjection to the heat incident to braking. Discourt the most serious charges against brake fluids as being

finned with commercialism and you still have the opinion of a National Safety Council official that "we do believe that poor brake fluid may constitute a hazard, and we have supported in general efforts to raise the quality of brake fluids sold and used."

Efforts to raise standards have been successful in Minnesota and New Jersey. Minnesota legislators passed a law requiring that all brake fluids meet the rigid standards set up by the Society of Automotive Engineers. Mr. Scheidt's counterpart in New Jersey ordered adherence to the same standard in his state.

The heart of the problem is this: Some motorists will always buy the cheapest product on the market; some manufacturers will produce and some jobbers will handle an inferior, admittedly dangerous product unless they are forbidden to do so. We think Mr. Scheidt and the legislators ought to investigate and then, if they're convinced, prohibit sale of potentially dangerous brake fluids in this state.

**The Awful Art Of Tail-Swallowing**

FROM a cobwebbed corner, reserved for overhorses, some Tar Heel war veterans have pulled a too-familiar project. The veterans bonus. Many states gave them, they say. Why not North Carolina?

After every run of global unpleasantness, the bonus question seems to become a burning issue. It has a strange political appeal, for one thing, and the post-war gray train has had many a passenger.

Granted that the veteran deserves certain special consideration, and in these delicate financial times for North Carolina, a bonus would injure about as much as it would help the veteran—in the long run. The bonus and any other kind of gravy the veteran receives will have to be paid for largely by himself.

When you consider the general high mental and physical standards of the veterans, combined with the normal preference for an inferior, admittedly dangerous product unless they are forbidden to do so. We think Mr. Scheidt and the legislators ought to investigate and then, if they're convinced, prohibit sale of potentially dangerous brake fluids in this state.

A bonus for Tar Heel veterans would amount to a kind of "kickback." The GI should direct his attention to far more urgent goals. More than bonuses, the veteran needs things like continuity of employment, more security in old age, a lasting peace. These will bring him more long-range happiness than any pocket-switching bonus.

**From The Plainview (Tex.) Herald**

**GRANDMA'S CURE**

SOME of grandma's cures were very, very good, after all.

We're not thinking of snake-ant, an ancient remedy used by the Indians for centuries, and given some standing by the whites.

Rather, we think of molasses and sulphur, and more modernly of soda and aspirin. Until our own doctor prescribed soda in some form and aspirin we doubted the efficacy of the same which Mother seemed more prescription than prescription. She poked it out and we took it. The psychological effect of the pathological. Our psychiatrist would never have permitted such upsetting of the nervous system, its malevolent effect outweighing the beneficial effect of the medicine.

There are two of the old standbys, the virtue and efficacy of which we question. However, there are devotees of both, who are enthusiastic and with full faith.

These are sarsaparilla and sasafra. Sarsaparilla says Mr. Webster, the lexicographer, is a mild tonic and alterative.

We hardly think that it will make all the alterations some have believed it capable, but credence is given the thought and the hope, by authoritative explanation that an alternative gradually changes, or tends to change, a morbid state to one of health.

So much for sarsaparilla, and those who cling to it.

This stuff sasafra comes from the bark of a shrub or tree by the blood, and does other good things for the human system in the springtime. We always associate it with the time of the year that people gave or talked about sulphur and molasses. We never took a bit of sulphur and molasses, but like to imagine we have because we've heard so many people talk about it.

But we have drunk the aromatic tea made from sasafra. We think it may have some merit, because it was dis-

persed by our highly intelligent and efficient grandmother, one of the finest persons who ever shouted at a protracted meeting under a brush arbor.

It is supposed, according to the same all-knowing Mr. Webster, to be a good diuretic, flavoring agent and useful for aromatic bitters. Its volatile oil is used in perfumes.

We concede nothing on this blood-thinning business usually attributed to a sasafra tea, and want nothing of blood-letting, a practice concurrent with sasafra tea's height of popularity, and supposed to be healthful. They cut you and let you bleed and die. Now they put blood in you and make you live.

"Diaphoretic," for those who are unimpaired, for we know its meaning for eleven minutes, since we looked it up, does not mean thinning of the blood. It means "increasing perspiration." It makes you sweat. Hot lemonade hot ovaline or a hot toddy if you know what that will do the same thing.

A glass of hot milk will do wonders.

Grandma's cures were good, but can't compare with the vitamins, which do everything short of providing humanity with life everlasting.

Grandma's cures were good, but can't compare with the modern antibiotics.

We don't wear severed tissue anymore with tincture of iodine.

We do wash it with water and soap. Maybe lye soap was the best of grandma's curatives after all. It was even better than "china berry salve," which it was an unguent of no mean reputation.

If new revenue is shown to be needed for the schools Gov. Faubus thinks it might be raised from "reversion" of the present income and other tax laws. Why not come right out and say it, govern-  
 —ARKANSAS GAZETTE.

**Deer Tongue Leaf: Carolina? Georgia? Florida?**

**People's Platform**  
 Editors, The News  
 I READ your inquiry from Catherine Young of Phoenix, Ariz., relative to deer tongue leaf, and where she might obtain some for her father to mix with his smoking tobacco.

**Try Looking For It Over In Staveshille**  
 Editors, The News  
 DEER tongue leaf comes from North Carolina. I once used it in my own pipe. Where can you get it? Well, I remember purchasing it in an herb shop in Staveshille. Why doesn't your Arizona friend try there?  
 —ELLIOTT R. JONES

**Leaf Grows Wild In Florida Lake Country**  
 Editors, The News  
 I NOTED your question on the editorial page in last Tuesday's paper about deer tongue leaf and letter from Catherine Young in Phoenix, Ariz.

**'Deer Tongue' Grown In Coastal Carolina**  
 Editors, The News  
 IN ANSWER to a query in People's Platform, the "deer tongue" "doe tongue" used for tobacco flavoring grows in the coastal area of North Carolina and is gathered by rural people who supplement their income by drying it and selling it to dealers, who then send it to the tobacco companies.  
 —D. W. COBLE

Several years ago while on assignment with the U. S. Public Health Service with headquarters in Brunswick, Ga., my duties required traveling in the greater part of the rural areas of three counties, on the Georgia coast. During this time, I became acquainted with deer tongue. I found that the natives in the low coastal counties of Georgia harvested dried and sold through commercial channels what they call deer tongue. It grows wild in the woods, is gathered by the natives, dried on lease logs or scalds and packed in burlap bags and sold in that form to the various cigarette manufacturers for the purpose of blending with the tobacco.

It was my understanding that the name deer tongue was applied to the leaf of a plant belonging to the "mullen" family and, as the name indicates, the leaf was about the size and shape of a deer's tongue. I saw the plant growing in its natural state and also after it had been harvested and dried in the manner in which it is possible that the person interested in obtaining this product might write to the Chamber of Commerce or to the Mayor, of the City of Darien, Georgia, or the city of Brunswick, Ga., and I feel sure that they can help her.

I hope this information will be of some help.  
 —MRS. HORACE E. GRANT

It's Widely Gathered In Central Florida  
 Editors, The News:  
 YOUR edition of Feb. 22 you published a letter from Catherine Young, Phoenix, Ariz., asking for information as to where she might secure some deer tongue leaves for mixing with tobacco for her father.

I think I have some information regarding deer tongue. It grows wild in Florida. My father used to gather it in Lake County (central Florida) about 10 years ago.

If Catherine Young will write to the State Experiment Station at Gainesville, Fla., the State Farm Bureau at Tallahassee, the capital, or the County Agent of Lake County, Tallahassee, Fla., I am sure she will receive the information she wishes.

You know, deer tongue has a vanilla odor and flavor. As to whether some of our imitation vanilla extract comes from it I do not know. But it's an idea.

I hope this information will be of some help.  
 —J. C. FOKES

**New Deal, Fair Deal Or 'Political Deal'**  
 Cheraw, S. C.  
 I HAVE come to the conclusion that it is time for someone to try to point out the deal bill-payers, the American taxpayers, are getting from the present administration.



"... Of course you have to tell us your income, there's no such thing as a '5th amendment taxpayer'..."

**The 49th State? Spanish With A Yankee Accent**

By ROBERT C. RUARK

THEY are calling the Hotel Castilliana in Madrid, Spain the "49th state" and with some justification, because only in America does there seem to be more Americans and the tourist season won't start until Easter.

The lobby of the big, new hotel—it's only 18 months old—is packed with as odd an assortment of types as I ever saw. Only occasionally do you hear Spanish spoken. You hear English, French, and German, and Japanese, and Chinese, and a very little Spanish. You have to go down the street to the Ritz or the Palace to practice the native tongue.

The Castilliana Hilton has suddenly become a Grand Hotel in the best Viceroy Room fashion. There are diplomats and generals, admirals and bill jumpers, phony counts and real ones, now, the actresses trying to look like movie actresses, and non-actresses also trying to look like actresses.

Some of the stables have been here so long now that they have to cut their losses from the bar stools. And the usual, magnificent assortment of waitresses.

gave cocktail parties and search endlessly for "contacts" for Spain is meeting in the lobby to outside trade, and there is, of course, big dough to be made in the construction of the military base here.

PAGING BRAUN

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**GUESS WHO?**  
 I met one dame last year who thought she was Bette Davis, and tried to hold a press conference to prove it. The next day there was an exciting-looking dame in the lobby and she asked me to guess who she was.

I was trying to make up my mind as to what would hurt my

morning malaise the least, and said, shortly "Cleopatra."

She smiled happily.

"You're right," she said. "But so few people guess it without my giving them little hints. I shouldered and ordered a new Coke."

BEVY OF BRASS  
 Somehow it does not seem odd to see four Chinese sisters, all in native garb, talking to a bullfighter and his cuadrilla as they emerge from a dressing ceremony. Or on Waller in an astrakhan coat, puffing a cigar, rates no attention, no more than a leaf of gold-headed brass rates attention. Polished airmen in leather jackets and dungarees sit next to glittery ladies in Balenciaga dresses. In the meantime everybody you ever knew in New York, Washington, Rome, Paris, or London must apply in an assemblage of handshakes and an agony of effort to remember what the familiar face is called.

**Drew Pearson's Merry-Go-Round**

SEN. Kefauver of Tennessee became famous quizzing underworld characters. The other day he had a little game with a man who did a part-time job of quizzing a lawyer who is an expert at quizzing others. He is John C. McConaughy, whom Eisenhower has nominated as chairman of the Federal Communications Commission.

The senators, however, unearthed the fact that McConaughy, a big utility lawyer, is the first utility representative ever put on the FCC to regulate the same utilities who once paid him.

**Ike's FCC Chairman On Senate Hotseat**

represented by the man who as FCC chairman will have to pass on telephone rates, include Associated Telephone Co., Ohio Consolidated Telephone Co., Northern Ohio Telephone Co., Citizens Telephone Co., the West Ohio Gas Co., Central Ohio Light and Power Co., and the National Gas and Oil Corporation.

**Nearly Denial**  
 Despite this long list of telephone and utility clients, McConaughy had denied during earlier Senate hearings that he had ever represented American Telephone and Telegraph or any of the other utility companies he had ever represented any concern before the FCC.

Regarding this, Harry Booth, Chicago attorney and former FCC official, testified before the Senate committee: "It is clear that while he was representing Ohio Bell and the Cincinnati and Suburban Telephone Companies, the FCC was exercising jurisdiction and positive jurisdiction over both these companies."

**Taxpayer's Lament: 'Extra Costs Hurt'**

By ROBERT C. RUARK

YOUR EDITORIAL, Feb. 17 regarding the upcoming bond issue has such remarkable phrases as "comparatively modest \$350,000 bond issue," "relatively small individual cost," "relatively conservative requests."

Some newspaper editors and city councilmen are comparatively well-heeled, but to a poor, beleaguered and already overburdened taxpayer like myself, additional costs hurt.

Once Eisenhower brought us the "sound" but elusive dollar, my earnings power has been shot to hell with "inquiries." Not being a city employee, I haven't had a pay "adjustment" in four years.

And to me, a quarter of a million dollars to collect facts and prepare plans for a project that is not even assured of final approval appears to be anything but "modest." Worse than that, it is downright wasteful.

I certainly don't want to impede or hinder the progress of Charlotte, but these ever-recurring bond issues, increased taxes—both open and disguised—have made me seriously consider how much longer I can afford to

maintain my residence in Charlotte.

And it isn't so much for my own sake that I contemplate moving. If people like Herb Baxter and Curly Bell are not restrained soon, even my great-grandchildren will be helping pay for their grandpas.

**Parking At Left Curv Is Dangerous Habit**

Charlotte  
 Editors, The News:  
 As a regular reader of your paper, may I offer a rebuttal to comment offered by a recent contributor to People's Platform?

As you know, there is an absolute difference in parking on the left hand side of our streets and driving on the left side of the street. I've seen too many cases in which you have deprived the other drivers, who are on their right, of the right of way, of their properly designated lane of traffic. To get to your proper driving lane it simply means you have cut across in front of the oncoming traffic.

As you drive away from the left side of your street your attention is directed toward the oncoming traffic, and you are liable to crash into the car that you failed to see coming, who likewise is not expecting to find an "English" driver in this country.

Another dangerous habit developing at the Dilworth Post Office is that of "parking" in the mail boxes which forces many drivers to "double park" while stepping a few feet to mail their letters. I say to the police department of our city, "feed the kitty" on such dangerous driver practices—and they will be saving lives, limbs and property.

**Capitol Has Beauty But It's Inadequate**

Charlotte  
 Editors, The News:  
 A recent editorial about the A Capitol Feb. 21. I thought some of your readers would be interested in a description of this building as recorded in the diary of the Rev. William Marshall Kenyon, who I say to the police department of our city, "feed the kitty" on such dangerous driver practices—and they will be saving lives, limbs and property.

**Kids Think Morals Are Old-Fashioned**

Charlotte  
 Editors, The News:  
 I HAVE BEEN reading in newspapers about juvenile crime. I think it is a very serious problem. It is not responsible for what they are. They are just what they are taught to be and follow the example of others they see.

I have been associated with youngsters of all ages. This is what is on their minds and what they are doing and doing to be sexy. They have to drink so they can be in society. It's smart to be in and steal or swindle. Everyone must lie to cover up for the gang. If one doesn't play ball and snails on the gang, the gang beats him up and gets shed of him.

It is old-fashioned to have morals, to be honest and truthful so they better be.

**Evasive Answers**

Charlotte  
 Editors, The News:  
 "I have never represented anybody before the FCC in my life," McConaughy insisted.

"Well, I don't care where you represented them," declared Sen. Kefauver, "you represented them before the Ohio Public Utilities Commission, did you not?" For the purpose of securing rate increases.

**A. T. & T. Control**

McConaughy vainly denied that the Cincinnati and Suburban firm was "controlled" by the giant American Telephone and Telegraph Combine. He claimed that only 30 per cent of its stock was owned by the A. T. & T. Ownership of even five or 10 per cent of many companies by one group usually leads to control.

If an able to divorce myself from past association and do an impartial job on the commission," the prospective chairman declared heatedly.

McConaughy also denied that he had ever represented American Telephone and Telegraph or any of the utility companies he had ever represented any concern before the FCC.

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