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Security Vs. Bureaucratic Cover-Ups

WASHINGTON'S on-again-off-again security blackouts are apparently on again. It is the old familiar pattern. The White House complaining about technical military secrets' leaking into print, capitol newsmen complaining about tight censorship on harmless information.

There is no excuse—absolutely none—for a system which permits military secrets to flap on the governmental doorknob line for all to see. But neither is there any excuse for a system which withholds legitimate information from the public.

This raised an interesting question: Was security jeopardized because the mass were hungry or inquiring why? There is a delicate balance between the protection of vital defense secrets and the need to keep U. S. citizens informed on what their government is doing.

How To Prove Practically Anything

THE office visitor was amazed. "How could you publish that article defending intellectuals?" he asked. "Don't you know intellectuals are dangerous?"

to locate one characteristic which both parties share and then lean to the conclusion that other characteristics, perhaps all are interchangeable. With this system working on all evidences, you come up with all sorts of interesting conclusions—all as phony as a \$3 bill.

Power Politics: Young Man's Sport?

IN THE era of hypertension we may suspect the game of power politics is a young man's sport. However, the names of Anthony Eden's ascendancy to the top rung of Britain's ladder of leadership casts a new light on the subject.

a younger man held the position. A glance at the lineup from 1916 to 1955 finds Mr. Eden just a wet-earred kid in the lineup.

R. W. Madry, Man With A Mission

IN THE ERA of the super-executive, the man with the "Think" sign on his desk, Robert Wilson Madry was a paradox. He got just as much done but his was with an efficiency known only to him.

a pocketful of notes. He was at home with everyone and would peer at you over his littered desk as if to say "What have you said good about the University today?"

Draw Pearson's Merry-Go-Round

WASHINGTON YOU can write it down as certain that American youth cooperation on foreign policy isn't going to get any big lift from the accession of Sir Anthony Eden as prime minister—unless Eden cooperates exclusively with President Eisenhower.

Alabama's senior senator has warned that the United States may be losing out in its superiority of brain power. We are sure that many Americans have had this feeling for a long time, especially when the antics and line of reasoning of some of our politicians have been exposed to the spotlight of publicity.

The Russians claim to have discovered or invented almost everything. There is one more discovery they ought to make, and that is that the world puts little credence in anything they say.—OZLETHORPE (GA.) Echo.

People's Platform

Charlotte Charlotte THE DEMONSTRATION on the great elementary school report card controversy appears to be set for Tuesday at Wilmore School when the members of the Central Committee, consisting of one parent and one teacher from each elementary school, convene probably under the watchful surveillance of a representative of the school administration. The finale will probably be enacted at the April meeting of the Board of Education.

CLEVER ENGINEERING It appears to me, based upon my information, that the spirit of democracy and freedom of opinion and speech were not entirely discernible at the March meeting of the Central Committee. For instance, it is reported that a representative of the school administration wanted to give the parents the type of report card they (the parents) wanted. It is well known, however, that an administration which adopts the type of inadequate report card now in use does not favor a so-called graded report card. Consequently, a little-known version of the present inanity was offered, by whom, I do not know. Now, when it is well known or suspected that an administration wants, how would you think the teacher members of the Central Committee would vote with a representative of the administration in attendance. Moreover, parent opinion had been engineered cleverly to a point of division in previous meetings by:

1—Separating discussion of grades 1-3 and 4-6. 2—Having consideration given to a third "compromise" type of report card in addition to the two types originally weighed in a memorandum prepared by the administration. 3—Exhausting parent interest by a point of division in previous meetings by:

1—Asking parents and teachers to vote "yes" or "no" as to whether or not the "compromise" report card would be acceptable. NO EMBARRASSMENT In order for the parents to vote for the A, B, C, D, and F type of report card on the "ballot," he had to resort to write-in voting. If he used A, B, C, D, and F grading, I wonder what the result would have been.

Our administrators probably don't want it that way, so they will in all likelihood have the teacher do it this way. The teacher must:

Backstage Story Of Report Card Controversy

the present day trend in public school education toward developing a mediocre product. A parent should merely know that his or her child's work in school is satisfactory, improving, needs to improve, about average grade level (not how much, heavens, no!), average grade level, below average grade level, not how much, heavens, no! One should not embarrass the little darlings—keep them sweet and happy, and above all, mediocre.

HORRID EXPRESSIONS In fact, on the now recommended modified report, which embodies all of the above expressions, we are not to see the horrid expressions "above average grade level," "average grade level," or "below average grade level." The appearance of these terms on the report card might give a child a superiority or an inferiority complex. To avoid this great hazard, the new form of report card is to give symbols for such brutal expressions—1, 2, 3, isn't that cute?

The parents just haven't thought this thing through. The teachers probably have. In order to grade a pupil in a subject, the teacher must first arrive at the "average grade level." By what method are they going to do this?

TEACHER'S CHOICE If the average grade level is the arithmetical mean of all pupils in the class, the teacher must:

1—Maintain arithmetical grades for the pupils and for each subject on the daily work and tests. 2—Average these grades to get the term grade for each pupil in each subject. 3—Add the average term grades for all pupils in the class by subject and divide by the number of pupils in the class to get the arithmetical term average of the class in each subject. 4—Inspect the individual term average grades for all pupils in the class in each subject. AVERAGE If the average grade level is the exact average grade of each subject. These few pupils obviously will be doing "average grade level work." Then about 45 per cent of the pupils in the class will be doing work "above average grade level" and 45 per cent "below average grade level." If no pupil in the class has the exact average grade in a subject, then 50 per cent of the class will be doing work "above average grade level" and 50 per cent "below average grade level."

1—Maintain arithmetical grades for each pupil and for each subject on the daily work and tests. 2—Average these grades to get the term grade for each pupil in each subject. 3—Make a listing of these term grades of all pupils in the class arranged in numerical order from the highest grade to the lowest (this will require a separate listing for each subject). 4—Transfer these grades to the next 50 per cent, "average grade level," and the final 25 per cent "below average grade level."

But A Controversy Lingers On easy because a pupil's name will not be in the same relative position on the listing of each subject. RIDICULOUS Parents should be very interested in the class percentage split, otherwise they will have less idea of what their children are doing than the minimum information provided by the monstrously long report card to be imposed upon them. For instance, a child in the lower echelon of the "average grade level" group may be failing in his work or about to fail. As another example, suppose an entire class is having difficulty with one particular subject, and tracking low marks, an "above average grade level" rating in this subject may be equivalent to a "below average grade level" rating in another subject in which the entire class is doing well. We await with great anticipation the reaction of a parent, whose child brings home a report "above average grade level" and "needs to improve" in the same subject. Dear Editor, doesn't that strike you as being a trifle ridiculous?

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In the writer's opinion and with specific reference to the elementary school report card issue, the parent is entitled to a report card that gives all the information a teacher's grading methods can afford without burdening the teacher with unnecessary work or time-consuming conferences. Which form of reporting provides this? When a child transfers from a Charlotte public school frequently by the out-of-town school requests numerical or alphabetical transcript of the child's Charlotte record. They must find our system unintelligible. We don't understand it ourselves but we've got it!

MEDIOCRITY This controversy is just one more indication that administrators and apathetic boards of "education" are undermining the curriculum of the public schools of the nation. Ask the colleges about our product. The accent is on administration, not education. It seems that the educator is disappearing gradually from the once sacred halls of public education. We have always thought it was a pretty good guy and, in no way, merited the fate of the Dodo bird. But the halls have some doors about administrators and a curriculum dedicated to the ideal of mediocrity.

PARENTS FELL DOWN The fight was on for A, B, C, D and F grading. We parents were:

1—Just too nice and polite. 2—Lacked the time to administer our facts against the administration and its supporters. 3—Exhausted and tired of a year of deliberations which should have previously been solved by the Board of Education in a few minutes.

Permitted ourselves to be divided by red herring, machinations, personal feelings, and therefore, it seems we are about licked. "COMPROMISE" The parents wake up and get pretty vocal and the curriculum committee of the Board of Education begins asking questions about how all this came about, the above described "compromise" report card is what parent taxpayers will be receiving next year as a progress report on their children in grades 4 to 6 inclusive. Grades F to 2? Oh, they'll be satisfactory, improving, or needing to improve. EASY SOLUTION It has been the opinion of many parents that the members of the Board of Education were elected by their representatives. Among the responsibilities they envisaged for each member of the Board of Education was thoughtful consideration of all recommendations of the administration relating to the public school curriculum and the weighing of such recommendations in the light of their obligations to parents and children and not in a spirit of deference to administrators subservient to them. Are such parents in error? If not, this report card issue was one for the Board of Education to have solved and

not have it throw back to a Central committee of half parents and half teachers. —CLIFTON B. WILBURN

New Classified Idea 'Should Be Popular'

Editors, The News: CONGRATULATIONS on your Week-End Market Place. This new format for your classified section is very attractive and easy to read. The convenience in referring to it should be popular with all your readers. —JOHN J. BUILDERS ASSOC. OF CHARLOTTE Robert W. Barker Executive Director

Handy Section Sure To Attract Readers

Editors, The News: CONGRATULATIONS on your new classified section in tabloid form. The advantage of the handy carrying size combined with the many other features in addition to your paper shall certainly result in increased readership and effectiveness for your advertisers. —TRIANGLE DEVELOPMENT & SALES CO. E. Lindsey Higgins

Series On Religion Praised By Reader

Myrtle Beach, S. C. Editors, The News: I THINK your series on the role of today's religion you are now running in the paper is wonderful. Today's article stated that later articles will discuss Episcopalian and Seven-Day Adventists, but I think you have done a good job but will continue some of the other faiths. There are so many people who belong to a church and still don't know exactly what the church stands for. I am a Methodist and the founder of my church would like to know. The person who is collecting this religious information has a wonderful idea and if he would make it into a book with the story of the foundation of each church and the founder's name, it would be a seller as wonderful as Our Lord's books.

Have been reading The Charlotte News for years and enjoy it more than any paper, just wish you hadn't stopped "Looking At Life," by Eric Brandeis. It would be a seller as wonderful as Our Lord's books. P. S. Rev Spaul's columns are very, very good. In response to many requests, The News will bring its readers more of the informative articles on the role of religion in today's world.

'We Saved Four Million Dollars On The U. N. Technical Assistance Program'

WASHINGTON (AP)—The United States has saved \$4 million in the cost of the United Nations technical assistance program, according to a report by the House of Representatives.

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Busy Congressmen Introduced More Than 7,800 Measures

By CONGRESSIONAL QUARTERLY

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