

Tax Consolidation: The Only Remedy

THE discussion of county tax collection practices began on a grave, no-nonsense note. It ended in a blaze of righteous indignation.

"It's been said you run the tax department anyway," said City Councilman Herman Brown to County Commissioner Sam McNinch.

"That's an out and out bald-faced lie!" exploded Mr. McNinch.

With this salty exchange the boiling point had been reached again in a long, exasperating controversy over the relative merits of the separate agencies which collect taxes for the city and the county.

The latest flare-up came at a joint meeting of city councilmen and county commissioners yesterday afternoon at City Hall. The session was called merely to approve a few budget items.

Yesterday's argument, taken by itself, was not too important. But added to dozens of similar disputes it demonstrated once again the urgent need for some tough-minded, practical decisions about tax collection in Charlotte and Mecklenburg County.

Nothing short of a major operation will do.

The tax departments of the city and the county should be consolidated at the earliest opportunity.

THIS would, we believe, do more than remove much of the friction planning today's tax operations. It would provide more efficient—and possibly more economical—service to taxpayers.

Of course, the remedy has been discussed for a decade or more. But little actual progress has been made. True, committees have been appointed and surveys have been made. But jealousy, politics, personal animosities—among other things—have hampered efforts to make consolidation a reality.

Yet in several other far flung areas, the move has been notably successful. There have been several reasons for this.

First of all, in communities where one collection office serves two governments, there has been a general feeling locally that the work is handled more efficiently and at less expense than the taxpayers. According to the University of North Carolina's Institute of Government, part of this feeling arises from the fact that

Exit An Earnest Public Servant

THE resignation of Army Secretary Robert T. Stevens removes from the ranks of public servants an earnest, sincere man.

Perhaps sincerity and decency were the chief tools he brought to the job. He has made no great mark as a government administrator, being overshadowed as are the secretaries of Air Force and Navy by the forceful personality of Defense Secretary Wilson.

Mr. Stevens' Washington career can best be judged by his role in the McCarthy-Army war and in formulation of the Pentagon's new military program which includes a cutback in standing Army strength. The cutback, which was opposed by the former Army Chief of Staff, Gen. Ridgway, doubtless involves a gamble of security against economy. Whether that gamble is wise cannot now be assessed, nor can Mr. Stevens' part in it.

In the McCarthy hassle the secretary's personal qualities served him well. He ably communicated his decency and devotion to the Army as a shining contrast

Presbyterian Backs A Reputation

PRESBYTERIAN Hospital's projected million dollar expansion program is a bright, new chapter in Charlotte's already commendable record in providing medical care facilities for its citizens.

It is estimated on the basis of present population growth that the city needs 24 new hospital beds each year. The 67 additional beds planned by Presbyterian alone will take care of three years of growth. Beds, of course, are only part of the medical care picture. Presbyterian plans also include other vital facilities—including an expanded department of

LOVE THAT SUFFIX!

WE ARE now in the *rama* age. We've taken a couple of sleepy old words like *panorama* and *diorama*, dressed them up to fit the times, and produced *motorama*, *futurama*, *cinerama*, *cuterama* (a beauty show), and now *Aquarama*—the name of the new and palatial Great Lakes passenger liner.

Next to automobiles, Americans love suffixes more than anything. Let a particular one like *-burger* catch the public's fancy, and like an author or comedian who once happens to click it, it will be through thick and thin. Wherever we look we find *-burger*. Beefburgers, cheeseburgers, fishburgers, shrimpburgers and tomatoburgers.

We also have been through the *-code* age, which began with that innocent word, *cavalcade*. *Code* is not a suffix at all. The correct one is *-ade*, and it has nothing to do with motion; it is simply the

The Liberals: Their Conservatism Angers Their Foes



BY ERIC SEVAREID

Editors' Note: Eric Sevaried, a Columbia Broadcasting System commentator, was one of the 1954 winners of Sidney Hillman Foundation Award. Presented here are excerpts from his acceptance speech on "The Climate Of Liberty."

I THINK the word liberal... may be popular again, as well as merely noble. The behavior of its enemies is ensuring that; every day that passes, they make it more clear to the people that what they hate about liberalism is not its constant calling toward newness, to fresh experimentation in our economic relationships; what they really hate and cannot tolerate, is its conservatism, its harking back—to heavy ethics of tolerance, equality of man, dignity of the individual, to the Bill of Rights, the meaning of the great American revolution in this world, to the original vision of our country. It is because liberalism wishes to conserve these ancient traditions that its enemies hate it, and because its enemies are both the enemies of the radical right and the radical left, the people will learn again what it is that is really protecting America from subversion, that it is a spirit, not an ideology—that is the true government, the grassroots and compass that always brings a plunging ship of state back into balance, back upon its course.

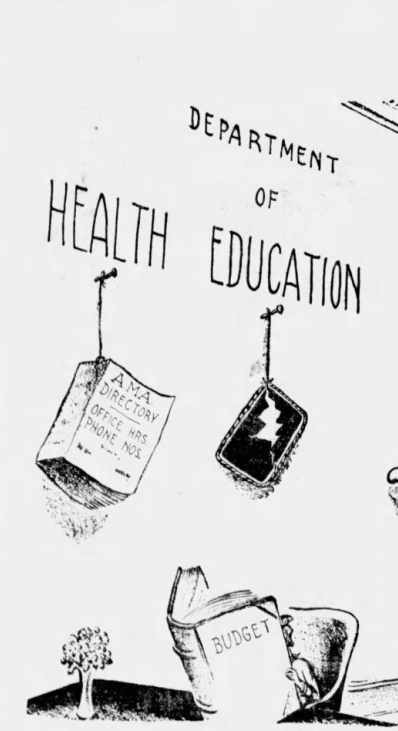
VANISHING TARGET

People have been learning for some time now—that those who pay any attention at all—that the real attack by the radicals of the left is against the liberals, not against the Communists. Save for the field of technical espionage, which is a special police job, not one for police, American communism is a tattered and worn out political target. It's no fun, anymore, for all those eager-jawed, standing in line, their quivers full of arrows, anxious to take part in the safest political exercise we have seen in this generation. A truly benevolent nature would have provided at least one dangerous Communist per congressman. They have been in extremely short supply, little wonder that frustrated archers have, for some time, been letting fly at the handiest substitute targets, the liberals. But this game, too, tends to lose its charm; for some dark, conspiratorial reason, it isn't safe, anymore. These targets have an un-American habit of hurling the missiles back upon their launchers, and the public galleries have been developing a disrespectful tendency to cheer this action; even to go home and write letters to the editor about it. Observant archers have noticed this and are quietly drifting off to other fun and games.

A LITTLE LESS

On the whole, so far as Washington is concerned, I do think the ship of state is plunging and wrenching a little less each day along these latitudes of civil liberties and common decency. I see few positive American acts on the credit side of the ledger; save the act of fighting back in the Army-McCarthy hearings, but that was an act more of self-preservation, than of courage and conviction. Anyone will fight back when constant assaults have forced him into the final corner where defeat would mean absolute abdication, but the result was

'Doing Very Nicely, Thank You'



Drew Pearson's Merry-Go-Round

THE record on Sen. Prescott Bush, Connecticut Republican, is a little worse than when I first reported it last week. Sen. Bush not only has a secret expense fund raised by wealthy friends on Wall Street, but he is one of the wealthiest men in the Senate, but on top of this made two of the longest speeches against raising Congressmen's salaries when that question was up for debate. Sen. Bush made it clear during this debate that he thought membership in the Senate should be reserved for those who could afford it. But he did not reveal to any of his colleagues that wealthy friends were raising over \$25,000 for his TV, radio and publicity, and that no record was being made of these contributions as required by the Corrupt Practices Act.

Purtell Argues

His own Republican colleague from Connecticut, William Purtell, argued with him at some length on the Senate floor, but the more Sen. Bush argued back, the more he became clear that he thought the Senate should be, in effect, an exclusive millionaires' club. This so surprised his friend and GOP

People's Platform

Negroes Were Light Unto Whites' Feet

TO BEGIN, I am a Negro, a southern Negro, and I was born in Charlotte 45 years ago in the so-called Queen City, "The Friendly City."

Have you forgotten what you claim to be?

Reading The Charlotte News, I saw a piece about hard labor being the answer to better homes.

I am sorry that I don't know that person because if everyone in her church stands for what she stands for, it is best she stay at home.

What is she afraid of? Is she afraid to let the Negro get close to her because it frightens her to think they may uncover the wrong her race did to them when they were her grandmothers' slaves?

Be careful how you speak of the old Negroes. They were the lamp unto your feet.

She may now sweat for a few things she gets. But the Negroes sweated for it first for her.

Did God call separate races to make man and woman?

The Negro will sweat for what he wants and that is what he is doing now—trying to get others to be fair, if they have the decency to let him. Not let him or her do all the work and others collect all the money.

Hate is the worse four-letter word I can think of. Love is the most wonderful word ever known. Put just a little bit of love where you have hate.

Be careful, search your race from start to where you are now and see if you have the time to sit down and criticize the other fellow.

—MISS V. COCHRANE

What Will City Do With Aged And Sick?

Editors, The News:

I WOULD like this opportunity to speak in behalf of the six nursing homes in the City of Charlotte.

Truth, according to an old maxim, is stranger than fiction. Also, in relation to modern fiction, it is cleaner. —Laurel (Miss.) Leader-Call.

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Sen. Bush is a former Wall Street banker who has raised all sorts of money for the Republican Party, and his GOP colleague from Connecticut, Mr. Purtell, has been a director of Columbia Broadcasting, the Vanadium Corp. of America, President of Insurance, the U. S. Guaranty Co., the Simmons Corp., Rockbestos Products, and chairman of Potomac Water and Power. Few other sitting senators have had as many ties with big business when they ran for office.

administrative fit. And he did all these things for partisan, political purpose. . . . From that point, perhaps it was not possible to go in any direction but up; and upwards, I think, we have been going.

But, what of the long run? I feel I must reluctantly confess, no certainty at all, and some foreboding. On two counts. The first concerns world wars. Should we find ourselves again in war with the reckless Chinese Communists, our blood spilling again, our men vanishing again in nameless tortures, even though our national security were not truly at hazard—if we could see again the dangers of fear closing down upon personal and constitutional freedoms here at home. Even if we should escape actual war, and the tensions increase in the world, the new weapons of nihilism pile up and up, if peace in our time is only the peace of mutual terror, then, I suspect, men concerned with domestic liberties will have to work and sweat and struggle all their natural lives to preserve the liberties we have.

THE MAJOR EFFORT

I think I know where the major effort, the permanent effort, must be made. And this is the second of my own foreboding. I mean our schools. . . . The enemy is simply, unmistakably—ignorance. I do not have to tell you that. Ignorance is the condition of all schools, or that present official planning will not cope with the need of students to come, or that some teachers begin, but it is often the best teachers who lack the and the worst who remain, ignorant of our history and principles and civil rights, in spite of their years in school. There is no reason to doubt this, a slow, creeping, corroding flood tide of massive, established, respectable ignorance that can choke away our freedom of thought without our knowing what is going on. Unless we turn back this tide, beginning with our children, I should think the fundamental task of all Americans who really comprehend the nature of liberty.