

THOMAS L. ROBINSON, Publisher
J. E. DOWD, General Manager
R. S. GRIFITH, Executive Editor

FRIDAY, AUGUST 26, 1955

Individual Freedom In Jeopardy

EVIDENCE, quite disturbing evidence, of jeopardy to the freedom of the individual, upon which principle this country was founded, is becoming more numerous and more worthy of attention from people outside of government. Recent instances which have got into print were the denial of a commission to a Merchant Marine cadet, an honor man, because his mother had been a member of the Communist Party, and the House Un-American Affairs Committee's investigation of suspected Communists in the theatrical world.

A shock to go to the Constitution and find in Art. III, Section 3, the statement that "Treason against the United States shall consist only in levying war against them, or in adhering to their enemies, giving them aid and comfort. No person shall be convicted of treason unless the testimony of two witnesses to the same overt act, or on confession in open court..."

There has been, of course, no action for treason even in the case of such conspirators as Alger Hiss, whose crime was perjury. Nevertheless, procedures by Congress, the courts and other agencies of the government may do about as much harm to individuals as a sentence in court, and by that method of reasoning those agencies should be restrained by the spirit of the Constitution, as they would have to be in their own right.

It is the safeguarding of democratic institutions and practices that concerns us more than the protection of individuals, but if it be realized that the two are part and parcel of each other, then for what may have been no more than indiscretion or silliness or a personal pique, we see a menace to the liberties of us all.

Will Russian Farm Experts Tell All?

THE Russian newspapers, PRAVDA and IZVESTIA, turned quite a somersault during the Big Four conference.

They factually reported the speeches of Western spokesmen, even including President Eisenhower's reference to international communism as a force seeking to subvert lawful governments.

This was a surprising achievement for Russian journalism, and Western observers correctly jotted it down as one angle of the big smile. Khrushchev and Bulganin were putting on the face of Soviet policy. This unaccounted objectively, however, was not a true test of whether the Communist organs had, so to speak, turned over a new page of truth to their readers. Neither was the reversal of policy that permitted them gossipy coverage of the now famous Moscow picnic at which the Soviet leaders, in their respective ways, were boasting sang folk songs and generally acted like human beings, careful all the while to keep themselves in full view of reporters and photographers.

The test of whether the Soviet really dares let its people know what is going on in the world about them will come when the touring Russian farm experts who have just completed an exhaustive tour of American farms reach home. These men carry in their minds and notebooks a really big story about America that, truthfully told, could give millions of their countrymen in one easy installment the massive education and reorientation they sorely need after a decade of propaganda portraying the American farmer as an ignorant, starving tool of Wall Street.

Let's See What's Going On Down In...

WELL, it's good for the farmer," mutters the rationalizing city resident as he fumbles with umbrella, rain coat and galoshes.

This he goes out on cat bogging days, his patience propped by generous generalization, his irritation salved by the vague and velvety feeling that poison to him is meat to the farmer.

Bravely, he slings out to work eyes avoiding Bermuda violence at the petunia bed, ears stopped to the incipient mosquito serenade in clogged-up drains. To the complaining secretary whose dress was soiled by a descending parasol, to the luncheon date who decided instead to send out for sandwiches, to the wife who got to the clothes line too late, our hero gently chides.

"Well, it's good for the farmer," Meantime, the rain-blasted farmer, buoyed

by his milk bucket, sails over the bounding barnyard man to tend the cows. Thence, shoulder deep in Johnson grass, he trends a great circle route around his liquid fields. He views the rapid growth and healthy green of beggar lice, jimson farm, corn and burr. He smells the molding hay. He observes the choking embrace of morning glory around tasseling corn. He wonders where under the carpet of crab grass he planted those grounds. He sees in the cow pasture a new stand of bitter weed. At the edge of his cotton patch, he can almost hear the damp-lying weevil chewing the squares and gnawing the bolls. And he thinks hard about suckers, shoots and second growth.

"It's good for the farmer" is a good proverb for rain-soaked city folks, but it doesn't always jibe with what's going on down in Pine Ridge.

From The Atlanta Journal

POLITICAL HAMS ARE HARD TO CURE

TELEVISION may change the style of future presidential nominating conventions. Democratic Party leaders are thinking of streamlining their 1956 convention to suit the fancy of the nation's TV watchers.

The Democrats have decided that television is here to stay, and a new roll call ballots. The proceedings must be speeded up, or the home spectator will switch channels.

These endless nominating speeches will have to be trimmed. The convention chairman, who saves every syllable for coast-to-coast reception, will have to provide a bit. The budding committee-man, trying to make a play for the people back home, will have to be put in his place.

And that familiar suspense killer: "Mr. Chairman, I request the delegation be

polled." Something will have to be done about that, too.

The Democratic planners admit the job won't be easy. Political hams are in their natural habitat on television. When they are orating or casting a vote for the record they are hard to deny.

If the Democrats can muzzle the pompous speechmakers, more power to them. But that home spectator is a little skeptical. He'll keep his hand on that channel selector just in case.

Watermelon Time Was The South's Hour Of Maturity

By ALLENE E. THORNBURGH
In The Christian Science Monitor

SOME months ago at a Sunday night buffet supper I served myself to a generous portion of luscious acid-sweet watermelon, the like of which I had not tasted for many years.

For I had been away from the restaurants, drugstores and cafeterias, but without success. Apparently, watermelon of such excellent quality was not to be found in public eating places. But the awakened childhood memories were to me as sweetly savorous as the delightful summer fruit I could not duplicate.

According to my recollections, watermelon was seldom if ever served as a dessert, as is the custom in this country. On occasions was it dignified by the formality of dining-room service. Even at the home of my grandparents whose pattern of living was far more conventional than ours, watermelon was eaten between courses and used as a rear porch or out of doors.

NO CONVENTION As for our children, they accorded no conventionalities to watermelon. In our opinion watermelon never to be eaten during or at the end of a meal when one's capacity was limited or when fortities were required. It was strictly a between-meal refresher to be consumed in abundance and without ceremony.

Along toward midsummer and into late August, when town and countryside settled beneath the sun, and the air shimmered like warm jelly above parched earth and baked asphalt pavements, but elsewhere was so still that leaf and blossom and peered unobtrusively about the time when the July flies (cicadas) came in their monotonous drone in the early morning and continued until the crickets tuned up in the evening — that was watermelon time in North Carolina. It was then conversation turned languidly to the protracted heat and everyone leaned for a good down-pour of rain "to cool things off." It was the South's hour of ma-



ture. Resting at the zenith of its burgeoning, all life seemed suspended while summer's fruition was consummated. GREAT LOADS Long before sunrise on weekdays during the season I employed loads of watermelons glistening with morning dew, gone on their way from country to town to be sold wholesale to grocery stores or retailed from wagons on the streets. The advent of a light spring shower moistened with freshly picked melons was a signal for neighborhood children momentarily to leave their play and scamper to their respective homes for nickels and dimes and permission to buy a watermelon. Oftentimes servants and occasionally mothers returned to the street with the children to ensure a good selection, while the farmer quietly waited in his wagon for the sales he was sure of making.

Aunt Betty's house was a large two-story frame set back at a distance from the highway overlooking in summer vast acres of land planted in cotton. She was in my memory the clear blue southern sky with its occasional drifting clouds vaulting an expanse of delicate pink blossoms which fluttered like soft silk lams in the breezes of early summer, later giving way to a multitude of white fibrous substance which for generations has been the "money" crop at that locality.

MASSIVE OAKS The driveway leading to Aunt Betty's house was lined on either side with apple, plum and peach trees, heavy with juicy fruit all summer long. These ended at the entrance of the front yard where massive live oaks cast cooling shade and spread their great roots above the ground in patterns exactly suited to an imaginative little girl's play in keeping house.

At all events, the record shows that, as of Aug. 22, the 84th Congress had launched its probes, with another 21 definitely scheduled to begin by January. And all signs point to another heavy crop in 1956, when Democrats and Republicans again battle for the White House.

By actual count, however, the two subjects of leading interest probers during the first session of 84th Congress also remained in the lead in 1955. Military programs, which attracted 21 investigations in 1954, were the subject of 24 in 1955. In second place was the general subject of communism and subversion, which attracted 16 probes in 1955 as in 1953.

But a hitch which occurred in third place. Agriculture, the subject of eight probes in 1953 and only four in 1954, took a hat seat, while business and business were spotlighted by separate inquiries.

Democrats, warning to the prospect of campaigning against a GOP "businessman's administration," directed inquiries into the stock market and proxy contests, anti-trust enforcement, corporate and bank mergers, tax amortization for defense industries, the role of business advisory groups and government consultants employed without compensation.

Biggest political impact, however, registered by probes of the Dixon-Yates contract and the private business interests of Secretary of Air Force Harold E. Talbot. Talbot resigned and the power contract was cancelled. SENATE LEADS The Talbot probe — handled by the Senate Government Operations Permanent Investigations Committee — formerly headed by Sen. Joseph R. McCarthy (R-Wis.) — pointed up another interesting change between the 83rd and 84th Congresses.

Under McCarthy's direction, the group initiated most of the Communist probes during the first Congress. In 1955, Chairman J. Lee McClellan (D-Ark.) started only two such inquiries. The other 14 were handled by the Senate Judiciary Internal Security Subcommittee and the House Un-American Activities Committee.

Altogether, Senate committees in 1955 started 57 investigations, while the House committees, which were conducted by joint committees, started 11. Bigges pure profit to the Senate Judiciary Committee and its 14 subcommittees, which were authorized to spend \$1,115,136 of the \$2,477,068 allotted to all Senate groups for investigations. However, the committee, as of June 30, had spent only \$210,723.12, while all Senate groups had spent \$736,337.

THE LEADER In the House, the Government Operations Committee, with 17 probes, led the number of inquiries. In funds authorized, however, it fell \$5,000 short of the \$200,000 of the Appropriations Committee. All told, House committees were authorized to spend \$2,467,067, but had spent only \$411,064 by June 30. CQ's survey covers funds voted for investigations other than hearings on routine legislative matters. Not included are certain operating funds of Senate and House Appropriations committees, and funds used for investigations by Joint committees.

When you stop to consider it, thinking remains the head of the parade. The companies getting these lush bonuses are: 1. James Black's Pacific Gas & Electric. Black has been in the Eisenhower's now-confidential stag dinners, and is a member of Secretary Weeks' Business Advisory Council, whose operations will not reveal to the House Judiciary committee. 2. Aluminum Corporation of America, controlled by the Mellon family, whose First Boston Corporation had a vice president in the Budget Bureau when Dixon-Yates was in the White House. 3. The Montana Power Co., formed as part of the giant Electric Bond & Share holding Co., which also helped to spawn the

84th Congress May Set Record For Investigations

By CONGRESSIONAL QUARTERLY

THERE are more investigations committees than there are in a humbugged day," said Rep. Usher L. Burdick (R-N.D.) last February.

Just how many that was, he didn't say. But a Congressional Quarterly survey does show that the 83rd Congress is well on its way to setting a new record for the number — and cost — of Congressional investigations. COINCIDENCE The fact that the 84th is controlled by Democrats, while the 83rd was controlled by Republicans, may or may not be coincidental.

At all events, the record shows that, as of Aug. 22, the 84th Congress had launched its probes, with another 21 definitely scheduled to begin by January. And all signs point to another heavy crop in 1956, when Democrats and Republicans again battle for the White House.

By actual count, however, the two subjects of leading interest probers during the first session of 84th Congress also remained in the lead in 1955. Military programs, which attracted 21 investigations in 1954, were the subject of 24 in 1955. In second place was the general subject of communism and subversion, which attracted 16 probes in 1955 as in 1953.

But a hitch which occurred in third place. Agriculture, the subject of eight probes in 1953 and only four in 1954, took a hat seat, while business and business were spotlighted by separate inquiries.

Democrats, warning to the prospect of campaigning against a GOP "businessman's administration," directed inquiries into the stock market and proxy contests, anti-trust enforcement, corporate and bank mergers, tax amortization for defense industries, the role of business advisory groups and government consultants employed without compensation.

Biggest political impact, however, registered by probes of the Dixon-Yates contract and the private business interests of Secretary of Air Force Harold E. Talbot. Talbot resigned and the power contract was cancelled. SENATE LEADS The Talbot probe — handled by the Senate Government Operations Permanent Investigations Committee — formerly headed by Sen. Joseph R. McCarthy (R-Wis.) — pointed up another interesting change between the 83rd and 84th Congresses.

Under McCarthy's direction, the group initiated most of the Communist probes during the first Congress. In 1955, Chairman J. Lee McClellan (D-Ark.) started only two such inquiries. The other 14 were handled by the Senate Judiciary Internal Security Subcommittee and the House Un-American Activities Committee.

Altogether, Senate committees in 1955 started 57 investigations, while the House committees, which were conducted by joint committees, started 11. Bigges pure profit to the Senate Judiciary Committee and its 14 subcommittees, which were authorized to spend \$1,115,136 of the \$2,477,068 allotted to all Senate groups for investigations. However, the committee, as of June 30, had spent only \$210,723.12, while all Senate groups had spent \$736,337.



Senator, will you please stop saying, 'We're being punished for something'... I tell you, it gets this hot in Washington every summer...!

Drew Pearson's Conflict Of Interest' In Power Board

WASHINGTON He is Seaborn Digby, a Louisiana Democrat appointed by Eisenhower with the enthusiastic approval of the gas-oil industry. Before he came to Washington, Digby represented the Transcontinental Gas Pipeline Corp. as a federal power commissioner. Digby on March 15, 1955, failed to disqualify himself when the case of his former client came before the commission.

The vote was four to one against Transcontinental, Digby being the only man to vote for the company. Transcontinental was asking for FPC approval of a rate increase based on a new financing scheme prepared with the help of Digby's law firm. The commission voted to disallow \$5,371,000 which Transcontinental had included in its new rate base, and Digby did not step aside as is cus-

tomary where a former law client is concerned.

Asked Why Asked by this writer why he had followed this unusual policy, Commissioner Digby replied:

"I didn't feel capable of voting as my best judgment dictated, I wouldn't be here."

100-Year Leases Very quietly, the new utility-dominated power commission has proceeded to hand out some of the most shocking giveaways of the last three years. They include hydroelectric dam sites to private utilities for as long as 100 years — in

People's Platform

Local Entertainment Needs Good Critics

Editors, The News: AS A MEMBER of the entertainment world of Charlotte, as well as one who feels that the local press is falling in its somewhat dubious duty of reviewing local entertainment.

When, on a rare occasion, a long-hair artist comes to town the program is not to be given some subjective attention. The same is true when our native symphony plays, but with less objectivity. Other than that the only reviews I see are those written by syndicated columnists about programs which are very often neither seen nor heard in Charlotte.

Maybe we should feel lucky that honest, objective reviewing is not practiced here, but critical analysis is to show business what competition is to business.

Quote, Unquote

When you stop to consider it, thinking remains the head of the parade. The companies getting these lush bonuses are: 1. James Black's Pacific Gas & Electric. Black has been in the Eisenhower's now-confidential stag dinners, and is a member of Secretary Weeks' Business Advisory Council, whose operations will not reveal to the House Judiciary committee. 2. Aluminum Corporation of America, controlled by the Mellon family, whose First Boston Corporation had a vice president in the Budget Bureau when Dixon-Yates was in the White House. 3. The Montana Power Co., formed as part of the giant Electric Bond & Share holding Co., which also helped to spawn the