THE CHARLOTTE NEWS

EDITORIAL PAGE

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WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 31, 1955

Possible Solution For Crowded Courts

RESERVING a big "if," it's possible county commissioners have come up with a workable substitute for a small claims court to speed the wheels of Mecklenburg justice.

Given a fair measure of success, in fact, the substitute plan might provide even more satisfactory relief for the overloaded court machinery than a claims court itself. The idea is to keep the small claims cases in Superior Court but to eliminate time-consuming jury trials in cases involving claims of less than $1,000. This is possible under a new state law, if and the plan's workability hinges on that if, parties to such suits do not request a jury trial in first pleadings.

The whole idea of the small claims court is, of course, to relieve the Superior Court of the raft of small trials that clog the calendars and delay for months, even years, much more important cases.

The substitute plan has two clear advantages over the small claims court proposal. One is that appeals from a claims court would all end up in the Superior Court anyway, while appeals from a small claims division of Superior Court would go directly to the State Supreme Court. The other advantage is that approximately $40,000 a year of the taxpayers' money that would be required for the claims court could be saved.

By eliminating jury trials, which take as much as two days while a judge could dispose of a small case in a few hours, and by keeping the Superior Court cogs clear of appeals, the substitute could achieve as much or more than a claims court.

In ordering study of this matter the commissioners have demonstrated their sense of duty to providing relief for the courts and, at the same time, being careful with tax money.

The orderly processes of justice demand either a small claims court or a small claims division of Superior Court. We hope the division proposal will work.

The Double Standard Of N. L. R. B.

IF A MAN works in a factory he has the right to join a union, to advance its interests and to choose his bargaining representative.

If a man works for a union, doesn't he have the same right? The law specifically says yes. The National Labor Relations Board has just said no by refusing to apply the law to an AFL Teamsters Union subdivision found guilty by an N. L. R. B. examiner of unfair labor practices against Teamster employes.

The decision is an affront to common sense as well as to the very spirit of labor's bill of rights. The N. L. R. B. says in effect that the rights labor has won for the employes of others, it may deny to its own employes.

The examiner said the union fired several workers to prevent them from joining the Office Employes Union, A. F. L., and also tried to get another to take a trip to avoid testifying in the N. L. R. B. investigation. In connection with such firings, the National Labor Relations Act has this to say:

> It shall be an unfair labor practice for a labor organization or its agents to restrain or coerce employes in the exercise of the rights guaranteed in section 7 . . . (which provides):
>
> Employes shall have the right to self organization, to form, join, or assist labor organizations, to bargain collectively through representatives of their own choosing, and to engage in other concerted activities for the purpose of collective bargaining or other mutual aid or protection . . .

The N. L. R. B. majority avoided salvaging the rights of the Teamsters employes by saying the board should not consider cases involving non-profit organizations such as the Teamster union. The board's minority report disagreed, said Congress intended the N. L. R. B. to apply the law to unions in their capacity as employers.

Although the law is open to interpretation on that point, there is no doubt that the rights of the Teamster employes were violated. And it is also clear that the board's majority chose to "interpret" for the union at the expense of the union's employes. It just doesn't make sense.

Boot It, Boy!

THE sports department is now engaged in the cleaning and care of some descriptive weapons idle since the year was young.

Bully! we say. It's about time we were treated to some knifing, jarring, jackrabbiting, waltzing and bonecrushing, especially since we've had to look to the majors for most of the scorching, poling, belting and fogging summer provides. In company with the Hornets this year active verbs just haven't had a chance, and even in the big leagues the summer words are tired from overwork during a long campaign.

What we want to read about now is how all the football clubs are going to be winners or at least "representative."

By Any Name A Booby Prize

AS A CHILD, the low scorer in a game of skill received a special mark of shame called a "booby" prize. These days adults use a more polite term called a "consolation" prize. The name matters not, actually, for it's the same rose.

We note that Charlotte has just received a booby—beg pardon—consolation prize for killing only nine pedestrians during 1954. This booby prize was presented to the mayor by the American Automobile Association and the Carolina Motor Club in impressive ceremony, as if it were something to be proud of.

Well, it isn't. Charlotte's death rate last year was a shameful 6.7 per 100,000 population compared to 4.1 for the national average in the same category.

If we keep up the good work maybe we'll kill even more people this year than last. And maybe we'll even rate a bigger and better booby prize.

From The Christian Science Monitor

IDYLLS OF A SUBURBANITE

THERE was a time when, if a man wanted his lawn watered, he stood on it with a hose. Now he sets out a sprinkler. This showers the lawn in great circles. All the man has to do is turn the tap on and off, and move the sprinkler from time to time so that the circles overlap. He may have even less than this to do, for there are sprinklers which creep their own way across the lawn, watering in neat rectangles. And some folk have piped sprinkler systems to do the whole job at once.

The advent of such household robots has long permitted the man to leave certain chores to them while he does others. But the multiplicity of robots now takes care of these others. This permits him to do something else.

The dinner dishes, maybe? But an electric dishwasher can take care of those. Obviously the man is coming into that ennobled state in which he can devote his leisure hours to contemplation. But as with every Utopia, the beautiful simplicities of this one vanish as it is approached.

Thinking, musing, ruminating seem less delectable pastimes when there is nothing to interfere with them. And they are more difficult to do well when one is liberated from other activities. What has become of the thoughts the man had while watering the grass by hand now that he is merely sitting watching the sprinkler do it?

It is nice to watch a sprinkler sending drops toward you in an arc with a sweep like horses coming over high hurdles. But it does not exercise the thought the way using a hose does. It does not suggest problems in military strategy as when the man soaked first one side of an area, then another, and then closed in victoriously from both sides.

Nor does hearing the electric dishwasher turn itself off start the thought working—as one ways to escape being asked to dry them. For the contraption will do that, too.

If it were not for the ball game coming over the radio, what would the man do to keep himself feeling like part of a living, moving, exciting world? But there is, at least the radio. And if he wants to hear the ball game he must listen for himself.

And that is why the man's wife, bringing him a cold drink as the game goes into the sixth inning, decides to take the drink back to the refrigerator, then pulls down the blinds, shuts off the radio and tiptoes out of the room, smiling.

Picnic time under summer skies again provides proof of the vitality of some of the creatures we get to know intimately. The ants, bugs and other insects seemed to have survived the winter with no difficulty. — MATTOON (ILL.) JOURNAL GAZETTE.

It's too bad the old-time horsehair sofa went out of fashion. Properly placed, it could have done a lot to discourage the kids from spending too much time sitting in front of the TV.—FLORIDA TIMES UNION.

Convict editors at Raiford have changed the name of a popular story in the Raiford Record to read: "Ali Babba and the 40 Stool Pigeons."—TALLAHASSEE DEMOCRAT.

The problem once posed in "You Can't Take It With You" is now fast developing into a dilemma over how you are going to get it in the first place.—LEXINGTON HERALD.

Joe Zink was asked what he thought of Egypt and the Gaza Strip and he said he had never seen the Gaza Strip and couldn't tell if she were better than Little Egypt! — KINGSPORT (TENN.) TIMES.

"Ever since Comrade Nudnicksky got back from Iowa all he can talk about is their lousy highways . . ."

Faddists Cite Falling Hair

Fight Against Fluoridation

By VIC REINEMER
In The Reporter Magazine

MORE than 20,000,000 Americans in more than a thousand communities drink fluoridated water—water to which approximately one part of sodium fluoride per million has been added. Another 3,500,000 Americans drink naturally fluoridated water.

Fluoridation has been approved by every scientific society of recognized standing in the field of health including the American Dental Association, dental societies of all the states and territories, the American Medical Association and the U. S. Public Health Service.

They favor fluoridation because exhaustive tests, conducted over a period of years, have shown that fluoridation reduces tooth decay among children, on the average, by 50 per cent or more.

DECAY RATE

For example, the rate of dental decay among six-to-12-year-old children in Newburgh, N. Y., where the water has been fluoridated since 1945, is running 50 per cent below the rate in nearby Kingston, which does not have fluoridation.

Nevertheless, fluoridation has vigorous opponents. Some claim that it is lethal, others that it is a Marxist plot.

In community fluoridation fights, anti-fluoridationists frequently distribute literature written by Dr. Betts, Dr. E. H. Bronner, Dr. Royal Lee, and the Citizens Medical Reference Bureau.

THE OPPOSITION

Dr. Bronner is a Los Angeles chemist who manufactures Dr. Bronner's Organic Mineral Salt, which he claims is superior to fluoridated water. Active in the anti-fluoridation movement in Seattle, where his side won a 2-1 referendum victory, Dr. Bronner has referred to fluoridation as "treason," "insanity," and "Communist."

In January 1952 when he was making speeches against fluoridation in Iowa, he aroused the suspicion of the Clinton Herald which discovered that he had been committed to the Elgin, Ill., state hospital for the mentally ill on March 27, 1946, and escaped in 1947. He speedily accepted the alternative to recommitment offered by Clinton police, and left town. The city council nevertheless voted down fluoridation by an overwhelming 8-1.

Dr. Lee is a vitamin-products jobber who also opposes pasteurization of milk and cooking in aluminum pans, and advocates use of his products in preference to fluoridated water. He was convicted in 1940 in federal court in Milwaukee of misbranding one of his products which he claimed would cure 41 diseases and conditions, including goiter, Bright's disease, whooping cough, dropsy, cystitis, weakness in hot weather," St. Vitus' dance and falling hair.

In 1942 he was ordered to stop shipping misbranded products in interstate commerce. In 1951 a federal court in Los Angeles ordered food stores to stop giving away some of his literature. Nevertheless, following his speech to a woman's club in Lakeland, Fla., in 1952, that city's councilmen were persuaded to return fluoridation equipment which they had not yet installed.

SAME ARGUMENTS

Dr. Lee's opposition to pasteurization is shared by Dr. Betts. Incidentally, Dr. Lee has never practiced the dentistry for which he trained, and Dr. Betts never trained for the dentistry which he practices. He received his license in 1902, when dental-college training was not required. Dr. Betts also opposes vaccination.

The Citizens Medical Reference Bureau, with offices at 1860 Broadway in New York City, is using some of the same arguments against fluoridation that it used against vaccination in the 1920s. An A.M.A. investigator reported that the Bureau's secretary sells "Koch's drug for cancer," which consists almost entirely of distilled water.

MASS MEDICATION

According to James C. Spaulding of the Milwaukee Journal, the Bureau is financed by anti-vivisectionists as well as opponents of chlorination, vaccination, and fluoridation. Several of fluoridation's vocal opponents also oppose use of aluminum utensils for cooking.

EXTREMISTS

It is the extremists, rather than the occasional unconvinced physician or dentist, who persuade voters and councilmen to reject the advice of health experts. The extremists are aided by the general indifference of newspapers and organizations.

Opponents of fluoridation have found that, while putting Lenin in the other camp, helps their cause, putting J. Edgar Hoover on their side is advantageous too.

POISONING

The FBI director figured in the Yonkers, N. Y., campaign last fall to rescind a 1951 ordinance that appropriated $10,000 with which to begin fluoridation. W. D. Herrstrom's Americanism Bulletin had reported that Mr. Hoover warned the public in 1951 to report any attempted "poisoning of public water supplies." Clearly, it was a patriotic duty to expose the fluoridation plot.

An unsigned pamphlet quoting Mr. Hoover was distributed in Yonkers. Despite his letter to a council member stating that he had "never issued any statement concerning fluoridation" and that his 1951 remark "should not be construed as an opinion" on the subject, the council backed away from fluoridation 10-3.

The little community of Mountain Home, Ark., was one of the few to approve fluoridation at the last general election. There were the usual scare pamphlets and timorous officials. But they were outweighed by the weekly Baxter Bulletin, which latched onto fluoridation after a state health department dentist proposed it at a Rotary meeting. The weekly informed the voters and showed up the opponents more effectively than many dailies in other communities did.

Quote, Unquote

The finance company, prodding a customer to keep up his payments, wrote this note: "What would your neighbors think if we came to your house and re-possessed you car?"

Back came this reply: "Gentlemen — I took the matter up with my neighbors and they all thought that would be a dirty trick."—**Carlsbad (N.M.) Current-Argus.**

Israel Smiles At The West But Warmth Is Not Returned

By DORIS FLEESON

JERUSALEM

THE principal architect of Israel's foreign relations is the small, brilliant, intense Moshe Sharrett, prime minister. Under his direction the new nation looks steadily west. He thinks the west does not always smile back with suitable warmth but that is just one of his many problems.

Since the armistice agreements were signed in 1949, the Arab states have been waging a cold war against Israel. On the borders the conflict occasionally gets hot which creates a special and difficult situation.

MONEY WEAPONS

This cold war consists chiefly of economic sanctions.

Egypt refuses to let ships bound for Israel ports through the Suez Canal. Iraq has shut off the oil pipeline which ended at Haifa. This combination forces Israel to import its petroleum supplies from a long way off — Venezuela, chiefly—and to bring them the long way round which adds enormously to the expense.

Syria persuaded the U. N. Security Council to seal off a vital stretch of the Upper Jordan River near the Sea of Galilee so that an important water project has been halted. Lebanon with its world port of Beirut does not trade with Israel.

SOMEDAY PEACE

What will the end be? Sharett replies crisply: "At some undefined period, peace. Until then a long period of waiting and patience. Meanwhile we make Israel stronger and strengthen its ties with other nations."

Sharett reminds Americans impatiently that Israel has "times without number" asked for a mutual defense treaty with the United States. Candidly he says its purpose would be "to bring the United States to our aid if attacked and to stabilize our position in the Middle East."

JOIN NATO?

Would he like to join the North Atlantic Treaty Organization? "Address that question to your own State Department" comes the brisk answer.

Meanwhile he is at least one with Egypt on the question of Iraq coming into the Western collective security system via an alliance with Greece and Turkey. Both object strenuously, Egypt because it weakens the Arab League and Israel because it strengthens a state with which Israel remains technically at war.

"We object to the unilateral defense of an Arab State, regarding it as a danger to us and a retardation of peace in the area." He also said "We fear a general trend with Iraq the first step. Though not on our borders Iraq in 1948 sent an army against us.

MOSHE SHARRETT
Ask Mr. Dulles

Now we understand very heavy shipments of arms are going to Iraq."

NO FEAR

He almost interrupted himself to add that this complaint did not imply feelings of trepidation. Israel is here to stay, he emphasized, she has plenty of work to do and desires only friendly relations with her neighbors.

Her paramount problem Sharett described as "consolidation, integration of her people, continued progress toward complete economic independence." Improvements in the world situation, he said, help Israel and help everybody.

"We hope it will help the Arab States," he added. "It is not in our interest to remain the only island of progress in a sea of discontent. We would like the gap between ourseles and our neighbors to be as narrow as possible."

DEFINE BORDERS

Reminded that Israeli dynamism makes many people, not alone Arabs, feel that she will one day burst out of her borders, he said: "Let them make peace and define our borders. That is the way to dispose of that fear."

Sharett described U. S. Ambassador Eric Johnston's forthcoming efforts to get his Jordan River multi-purpose water project moving with Israel, Syria, Jordan and Lebanon as of great importance. But he warned:

"We must have a conclusion fairly soon, there is not much time to lose. We have quadrupled our irrigation area. Now we must double that. Our whole progress depends on it. If he fails now, we should then resume our freedom of action and do what we can to advance our projects."

Quoted Quips

They Didn't Say It!

By DAVID NOWINSON
In The Los Angeles Times

IF you're an average American, you believe Horace Greeley said, "Go west, young man." You're reasonably sure Mark Twain uttered the remark, "Everybody complains about the weather, but nobody does anything about it." And you're positive it was P. T. Barnum who cracked: "There's a sucker born every minute."

These classic utterances all have one thing in common: They were not made by the illustrious men commonly given credit for them. Let's look into the facts and discover who were the unsung heroes who did bob up first with the much quoted lines.

In 1851, John Soule, editor of the Terre Haute (Ind.) Express, was chatting about opportunities in the west with his friend Richard Thompson, who was later to become Secretary of the Navy. Thompson urged Soule to travel westward so he could find more material for writing.

"John," he said, "if you tried, you could write an article which would be attributed to the great Horace Greeley."

IT WAS A BET

The Indiana editor didn't think he could. Thompson was insistent. Finally they decided to bet on it. The loser would buy a barrel of flour and give it to a worthy poor person. John Soule sat down in his office and wrote an editorial for his paper. He pointed out the opportunities offered young men by the west. And he observed that Horace Greeley could never have given a young man better advice than that contained in the words: "Go west, young man."

Horace Greeley received many letters congratulating him on the sage advice. Finally the phrase grew so popular that Greeley felt guilty and thought he'd better explain.

The New York Tribune, the paper he edited, then reprinted the Soule editorial together with Greeley's statement: "The expression of this sentiment has been attributed to the editor of the Tribune erroneously, but so fully does he concur in the advice it gives that he endorses most heartily the epigrammatic advice of the Terre Haute Express and joins it in saying, 'Go west, young man.'"

In spite of Greeley's confession, however, for a hundred years people have credited him with a phrase he didn't coin.

Drew Pearson's Merry-Go-Round

'Phantom' Haunts Pentagon After Dark

Editor's Note: While Drew Pearson is on a brief vacation his usual column will be written by members of his staff.

WASHINGTON

GOVERNMENT agents are investigating a ghost that, it's whispered, haunts the Pentagon after dark. By all accounts it is a playful spook having itself a Halloween in the world's biggest, emptiest building.

As soon as the gloom settles, the Pentagon Phantom starts flashing the telephone switchboard from empty rooms, tampering with wires behind locked panels and scaring scrubwomen out of their wits.

Prowling

The question that worries agents is whether the ghost has security clearance. For it apparently has been prowling the darkened corridors of a restricted area.

Telephone operators will tell you about being flashed at night from empty rooms. Scrubwomen whisper about hearing eerie noises and having the lights turned off by unseen hands. Maintenance men swear the ghost has been gumming up the wires behind locked panels.

No Prints

Once they spread grease around a locked air-conditioning unit in hopes of catching the culprit's fingerprints. But everyone knows a ghost doesn't leave fingerprints; next morning there wasn't a mark in the grease.

The whole eerie investigation was turned over to the General Services administration, whose sleuths got interested when spooky shenanigans were reported in a security area.

Payroll Padding Rife

When congressmen boosted their own pay 50 per cent, it was supposed to stop pay roll padding. Yet despite their new $22,500-a-year salary, more congressmen than ever are keeping relatives on the government pay roll.

This column has examined federal vouchers and found a record 58 relatives on the House pay roll. The list doesn't include a host of in-laws whose different names make them tougher to trace.

Some relatives, of course, earn their government pay. Others don't do a lick of work for the taxpayers.

Worst offender, ironically, is New York's Congressman John Taber, most miserly man ever to head the House Appropriations Committee, who has probably chopped more people off the public pay roll than anyone in Washington. He has a different policy, however, for his own family. He duns the taxpayers to pay his son, Charles, $632 a month, and a brother, Silas, $379 a month.

Highest paid congressional relative is James Kee, son of West Virginia's Congresswoman Elizabeth Kee. He collects $722 a month from the taxpayers, but works hard for his salary.

Here's the list, state by state, of other congressmen who keep relatives on the pay roll:

Arkansas—Oren Harris (D) whose brother, Willie, draws $672 a month; James Trimble (D) whose wife, Ruth, collects $403.

California — Gordon McDonough (R), wife, Catherina, $681; John Phillips (R), wife, Dorothy, $486; George Miller (D), wife, Esther, $273; Harlan Hagan (D), wife, Martha, $228; Donald Jackson (R), wife, Shirley, $194; Leroy Johnson (R), wife, Elizabeth, $156.

Colorado—Wayne Aspinall (D), son, Owen, $281.

Connecticut—Albert Cretella (R), son, Richard, $626; Antoni Sadlak (R) brother, Maximilian, $580.

Florida—A. C. Herlong (D), wife, Mary Alice, $211.

Illinois—Thomas Gordon (D), wife, Cecilia, $438; Sid Simpson (R), daughter, Janet, $264; Harold Velde (R), wife, Delores, $373; Melvin Price (D), brother, Raymond, $317.

Iowa—Henry Talle (R), wife, Gladyce, $622.

Kansas—Myron George (R), son, M. Don, $264.

Louisiana—George Long (D), wife, Jewel, $680; T. A. Thompson (D), wife, Willa, $524; F. Edward Herbert (D), wife, Gladys, $480; Hale Boggs (D), wife, Corine, $307.

Maine—Charles Nelson (R), wife, Arlene, $264.

Maryland—Edward Garmatz (D), Wister, Elizabeth, $435.

Massachusetts—John Heselton (R), wife, Libbie, $305; Donald Nicholson (R), wife, Ethel, $274.

Michigan—Jesse Wolcott (R), wife, Grace, $576; John Dingell (D), wife, Grace, $534; John Lesinski (D), wife, Margaret, $467; Clare Hoffman (R), wife, Florence, $415; George Meader (R), son, Robert, $221.

Mississippi — Arthur Winstead (D), wife, Etna, $283.

Missouri—Frank Karsten, (D), daughter, La Verne, $474; A. S. J. Carnahan (D), wife, Mary, $403.

New Jersey—James Auchincloss (R), wife, Lee, $612; Frank Osmers (R), wife, Marguerite, $579; T. Millet Hand (R), wife, Elizabeth, $467; T. James Tumulty (D), wife, Anne, $307.

New Mexico—Antonio Fernandez (D), wife, Cleo, $343.

New York—W. Sterling Cole (R), wife, Elizabeth, $220; J. Ernest Wharton (R), wife, Marion, $264; William Williams (R), daughter, Jane, $264; John Pillion (R), wife, Charlotte, $294.

Ohio—J. Harry McGregor (R), wife, Twila Ive, $505.

Pennsylvania—Richard Simpson (R), wife, Helen, $544.

Tennessee—Ross Bass (D), wife, Avanell, $544.

Texas—John Dowdy (D), wife, Johnnie Deane, $549; Frank Ikard (D), wife, Jean, $492.

Washington—Thomas Pelly (R), daughter, Marion, $143.

Wisconsin—Alvin O'Konski (R), wife, Veronica, $464; Gardner Withrow (D), wife, Anne, $402; Lawrence Smith (R), wife, Eleanor, $360; Clement Zablocki (D), wife, Blanche, $333.