



THE CHARLOTTE NEWS

EDITORIAL PAGE

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TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 13, 1955

Giving Aid & Comfort To Tax Cheats

IN the strange labyrinths of U. S. morality, cheating the tax collector is frequently considered no worse than cheating at solitaire. Some judges and juries with their bland and jolly attitude toward offenders have obviously contributed toward this feeling of only slightly tarnished virtue on the part of offenders.

This is certainly true in parts of North Carolina. In fact, when Internal Revenue Commissioner T. Coleman Andrews let loose his recent blast at soft treatment of tax evaders in the courts, he might well have been aiming good part of his fire directly at the Heel State.

According to some figures just gathered by the Washington Bureau of the *Raleigh News & Observer*, 133 tax dodgers appeared for sentencing before federal benches in North Carolina during the nine-year period ending last June 30. But only 35—or 26 per cent—actually received jail sentences. The national average is 45 per cent.

In the Western District, only 10—or 29 per cent—of the 34 tax dodgers up for sentencing were sent to jail.

In the Eastern District, there were 37 offenders and only four—11 per cent—received jail sentences.

In the Middle District, there were 62 convicted tax dodgers and 21—or 34 per cent—received jail sentences.

Of course, each case must be judged on its own merits. But too often we

have seen leniency where none was deserved. This has tended to make dishonesty both possible and profitable. And it works to penalize the honest citizen who is scrupulously fair and pays his full share.

Occasionally when a prominent citizen is caught red-handed, his friends, neighbors and employees flood the court with emotional letters telling what a "good citizen" the defendant is and how much he deserves a break. Almost as often as not he gets the break, together with a lesson just stern enough to teach him to cover his tracks a little more skillfully next time.

This sort of "give-'em-a-break" attitude in the courtroom was attacked by Mr. Andrews as "obstructing the efforts of the Internal Revenue Service and the Justice Department to cut down on tax evasion."

Worse than that, it is an encouragement to cheat. And the cheater is not merely swindling some vastly impersonal mechanism called "government." He is cheating himself and his neighbors as well by not shouldering his fair share of the burden—thus making higher taxes necessary.

The time for a crackdown is long overdue. We hope that both judges and juries—in North Carolina and throughout the nation—take Mr. Andrews' message to heart.

Affair Of Professionals The GOP's Critical Problem

By WALTER LIPPMANN

AS IS customary after Labor Day when the summer holidays are over, party politics have begun again. The activity, however, has yet a low voltage, which is natural enough in a time when there is so much prosperity and no present need to worry about war. The two parties have their work cut out for them getting ready for next year's elections. But as yet there are no signs that the voters are paying much attention. There is little of the party discontent and nothing of the passionate hope which heat up politics. The effect is to make politics the affair of the professional politicians.

TWO GROUPS

As the American party system works today, there are in each party two main groups of professional politicians. They have differing primary interests. The one group is made up of the senior senators of the party together with those members of the House who have sure seats and long service and high seniority. They might be called the congressional group. For their elections the Democrats they are, of course, from the solid South. Among the Republicans they come in the man from the northern middle west.

A significant fact about this group of professional politicians is that they do not retire to private life even if their party loses the presidential election. They are never out of office. Moreover, they may actually be in power, as are the congressional Democrats today, through the administration belongs to the other party. Whether or not they have the majority in either house, and therefore the committee chairmanships, they make the party's public record in between elections. There is no higher authority on the party's principles and programs than theirs, and there is no politician on the outside who can lead them or can speak for them.

FIRST INTEREST

Their primary personal interest is not to elect a president. It is to fortify their own position in Congress, in their constituencies, and in the control of the party organization. They would like best, of course, to be the senior members of a party that controlled both ends of Pennsylvania Avenue. But it is against their interest to have a president of their own party who ignores them or, worse still, might challenge them.

The other group of professional politicians is drawn from the state capitals and the big cities. The congressional group are centered in the rock ribbed constituencies. The other group are centered in the doubtful states and the highest concentration of the vote toward the White House and toward national, rather than a regional leadership. For their elections they are hard fought and they need help from the national party. They might perhaps be called the presidential group.

DOUBTFUL STATES

Their primary interest in national politics is the presidency. But as they are in the doubtful states, they are far more keenly aware than are the congressional group of the role of the doubtful states. This causes them to favor a national rather than a regional, a broad rather than a narrow, moderate rather than an extreme, party program.

In these terms, we may remember that Eisenhower's nomination three years ago was brought about because the Republican group had greater popular strength than the congressional group who supported Taft. We may then note that for the first two years of Eisenhower's administration the congressional group, nevertheless, continued to control, as it had for 20 years, the party in Congress and the party machinery in the nation. They gave the president a very rough ride. They opposed him, they frustrated him, they interfered with him, they harassed and embarrassed him. Then came the mid-term elections of 1954, which proved to be a resounding defeat for the congressional faction of the Republican party. This defeat broke their power and the president became at long last the leader of his party and the master of his own administration.

HIGH WINDS

Since his prestige has soared to great heights on the rising winds of prosperity and peace. He can, of course, have the nomination by acclamation. But the game is not over. The underlying conflict between the two groups of professional politicians is a permanent feature of our party system. Only temporarily, owing to Eisenhower's eminence, has this conflict been pushed under the surface.

It will rise up again with Eisenhower's position indubitable the key position in the conflict is the vice presidency. That is not because of Eisenhower's age, a fact to which he himself has called attention. It is also because in his second and last term, the control of the party will again be at issue.

Mr. Nixon, unlike for example Gov. Hester, cannot be regarded



"Wouldn't it be nice if we could convince the Democrats like it is invincible if he decides to run... they might even concede the election before it starts..."

to run on, while allowing the presidency to go to Eisenhower by fact consent. The problem of the national or presidential Democrats, of whom the leading figures are Stevenson, Kefauver and Hartman, is whether there are politically effective ways of defeating the independent and the wandering Democrat from Eisenhower.

As of now, they have no hope of doing this unless, as is improbable, something goes unexpectedly wrong with the existing prosperity. The one critical weakness in the Republican position is that the succession to Eisenhower is not safely and surely provided for, and that the remarkable national unity which prevails under Eisenhower has been made to depend exclusively on one man, on one mortal man alone.

The Twists And Turns Of Tragedy

THE climate of justice in North Carolina: Variable.

Last year, a Raleigh coroner's jury cleared state prison employes of any "culpable negligence" in the strange death of 18-year-old Eleanor Wash in an isolation ward at Woman's Prison.

Now, the State Industrial Commission has ruled that the young prisoner was indeed the victim of some measure of negligence on the part of prison employes and that the State Highway Commission pay \$3,000 for damages under the State Tort Claims Act. Said the decision: "The very fact

that the prisoner's neck was dislocated in the application of gags is strong evidence that the same was done without the care required by law."

This is added another confusing and contradictory chapter to a case which was subject to some curiously unsatisfactory handling in the past.

The circumstances which permitted a young girl to die so terribly reflect no credit on the state. The situation was in no way improved by the lamentable manner in which the early investigation of the murder was handled and the length of time it has taken to fix any sort of responsibility.

British Socialists Need A Definition Of Their Cause

By STEWART ALSOP

EASILY THE MOST interesting phenomenon in British politics today is the soul-searching which is going on from the top to the bottom of the British Socialist Party. The soul-searching centers around two questions. Although no British Socialist would put them quite that way, the questions may be phrased about as follows:

Is socialism necessary? And if socialism is necessary, what is it?

In a recent brilliant but little noticed analysis of the Socialist party's defeat in the spring elections, Hugh Gaitskell, her apparent to the Labor party leadership, wrote as follows:

"There are signs of something, of which we should do well to take note. I fancy that in the last year or two more and more people are beginning to

turn to their own personal affairs and to concentrate on their own problems. No doubt it has been stimulated by... TV, new gadgets like refrigerators and washing machines... even the flood of new cars that the home markets. Call it if you like the growing Americanization of outlook. I believe it's there and it's no good moaning about it apart from the fact that the moaning, when it comes from better off people, seems to me rather odiously hypocritical."

Gaitskell went on to suggest to his fellow Socialists that it would be wise to plan for the next election. This suggestion, which might well take place at a time of "higher living standards and reasonable stability. This is, in any terms of the two factions within each party, the Democrats take themselves with the record made by the congressional faction. This is a perfectly good record made by the congressional faction. This is a perfectly good record for the congressional Democrats from the safe constituency

The Chinese Seek The Larger Prizes

THERE is much room for happiness, but little for optimism, in the Chinese decision to release the 41 Americans remaining in Red China.

The news that the prisoners finally are to be freed is like a little breath of sanity blowing out of the steamy jungle of fear and depravity the Communists have planted and tended within their wide borders; and the Americans turning toward freedom on that gentle breeze and the friends and relatives who await them must know an exaltation, a taste for freedom that few of their fellow citizens have experienced. The opening of the gates, if only for a moment, is cause enough for a thankful feeling that the Communists have decided to do a right thing.

But the Chinese have no claim on our appreciation. Their decision, as in the case of the tortured fliers they finally freed, is a piece of a strategy of giving up stolen goods with a gesture of magnanimity in order to win the larger prizes of respectability. These larger prizes include an end of the U. S. embargo against China, the fulfillment of her claims to Formosa and her admission to the United Nations.

All these are considerations presumably open to discussion on the Geneva agenda now that the prerequisite of freedom for the American civilians is to be met. If the Communists give further evidence of good conduct they are matters the U. S. may strategically deal with. It would be unshakable, of course, to permit the Communists to have Formosa, for that island is essential to the security of the Pacific. Trade with them in any sort of heavy material would be equally foolish until good conduct gives some promise of becoming a habit. It is the question of a U. N. seat that the U. S. can properly use as a lever to guarantee a measure of stability in the Orient.

But even that prize is one that should not be yielded until the Chinese have demonstrated a willingness to pay what for them would be a bitter price—an exercise of decency and good manners over a long period of time.

'So Nice Of You To Invite Me'



HERB LOCKE
DREW THE WASHINGTON POST CO.

What Does U. S. Labor Want?

RIGHT wing pundits who predict that the AFL-CIO merger will spawn new political party are consulting clouded crystal balls.

A U. S. Labor Party? Hardly.

The unions cannot go it alone any more than big business can go it alone. After all, organized labor's special interests are no more special, in the long run, than any other slice of America's population.

What does labor want? Frank Crane, North Carolina's commissioner of labor, attempted to answer that question last

week in Spencer. Said he:

"I believe that five things are uppermost in the minds of most workers. These are (1) security, (2) recognition, (3) good wages, (4) safe and healthful places of employment, and (5) opportunity for advancement."

In short, then, labor wants essentially the same things everybody, everywhere, wants.

The future of labor lies in serving the community interest as well as the shop interest. By working for the security of all, labor can obtain its own security.

LAMENT FOR COUNTRY HAM

DAYS are hot and nights are not so cool, but soon that will end. Daylight hours will grow shorter and night temperatures will drop and before long there will be a touch of frost in the air.

The first freeze of fall will not be far behind. It will be a signal for the country dweller who has hogs to bestir himself with preparations for converting his porkers into the delicacies which make autumn, for many, the most pleasant season of the year—spareribs and sausage and liver pudding and sous meat and, with the passage of time, country ham, perhaps.

Note that "perhaps." Once, there would have been no doubt that five or six months after hog-killing time there would have been dark, pepper-coated hams hanging in the smoke house, ready for the knife to slice and the palate to savor. Such delights now do not occur as early as in times of the rime-edged morning that brings the hog to his fate. And great is the pity of it.

Twenty years ago, you'd hardly find a farm that had no hams. Now they are

too few. The farmer will, perhaps, cure two or four for his own use, but there is hardly ever that abundance which allowed him to pass on to neighbors or friends a sampling of his cure.

Proper curing of hams is a time-consuming and risky business. It is much simpler to convert all of the meat to sausage and store it away, or, worst of all, sell the fresh ham.

The true country ham is passing. It is another piece we pay for progress.

Mrs. Mosquito: "Where is your daughter?"

Mrs. Housefly: "She just went to the front door for a screen test."—CARLSBAD FRONT-BOARDS.

Pome In Which Is Contained A Modicum of Advice About Certain Risks:
Don't give way to common dread—
Take a chance and plunge ahead.—
ATLANTA JOURNAL.

Nobody is interested in your troubles—
unless a woman is involved.—GREENSBORO (GA.) HERALD-JOURNAL.

Drew Pearson's Merry-Go-Round How The Army Bungled Murder Probe

Editors' Note: While Drew Pearson is on a brief vacation his column is being written by members of his staff.

INSIDE story can now be told of how the Army bungled a murder investigation and let a brutal killer go free. The crime was committed nearly 10 years ago—Jan. 7, 1946. Three American officers were backed to death with a meat ax while they lay sleeping in a peaceful villa overlooking the Danube at Passau, Germany. Their bodies were doused with gasoline and set afire to destroy the evidence.

Target

Object of the assault was Maj. Everett Coffran, stern but fair military governor of Passau, disliked by his officers but loved by his enlisted men. The other two victims—Capt. Adrian Wessler and Lt. Stanley Rosewater—were innocent victims who chose the wrong, tragic night to call on the major. They had intended to stop only a few minutes en route to Vienna. But Coffran persuaded them to spend the night—in his downstairs bedrooms.

The killer apparently chopped up Wessler and Rosewater by mistake as he groped in the dark from bedroom to bedroom. He finally found Coffran asleep in the attic and murdered him last. The gasoline inferno, left behind by the murderer, badly burned the corpses and destroyed part of the villa. A neighbor also heard a splash in the Danube, and divers later fished a bloodstained meat ax out of the river.

Tiger Man

The ugly ring of suspicion pointed to a junior officer, a morsure man who Army psychiatrists claimed had the latent killer instincts of a tiger. Overwhelming evidence was piled up against him. Then the Army mysteriously dropped the investigation and sent the suspect back to the States.

Nine years later, the Army doused the cobwebs off the case and drew up a secret murder indictment against the officer. But by his time exhibit No. 1, the murder ax, had mysteriously vanished. Then the Army ran into a legal block trying to extradite him back to Germany. The case is now so snarled in red tape it may never go to trial.

Man Free

Meanwhile the murder suspect, the man with the tiger traits, is free in this country. Who knows whether some gloomy night he will strike again?

This column has painstakingly investigated the Passau triple murder. Here are the facts which the Army knew 10 years ago but did nothing about.

Unpopular

Major Coffran, who enlisted as a private in World War I at 15 and came up through the ranks, was generally unpopular with his officers. But one officer had the most cause to hate him. This officer had considered himself in line to be the next military governor. Then Coffran not only recommended someone else but gave the officer a low efficiency rating. Coffran also threatened to investigate the officer's German girl friend on the suspicion she was a spy.

Finally, two days before the murder, Coffran summarily fired the girl from her military government job.

These grudges boiled up in the officer to the point that he admittedly quarreled with Coffran shortly before the triple killing. He went so far, in fact, as to ask another officer to run strings at higher headquarters to get Coffran transferred. This attempt to remove the major failed.

But what officer should investigate himself? Investigators concluded it could have been committed only by an athletic person, thoroughgoing in his process, which American liberals, who have little relationship to current reality, might well emulate.

The spilled gasoline on his pants the eve of the killings. He claimed it happened while tinkering with his car.

He left fingerprints on five gasoline cans found in the charred villa. His explanation: He had discovered the cans during his inspection, hefted each one to determine how full it was, and tested the lids for tightness.