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Death In A North Carolina Prison

ON December 10 a former Fayetteville hospital administrator named Laurence C. Thornton died in Wake County jail 19 hours after he had been lodged there on a public drunkenness charge. The county physician listed cause of death as a "certain heart attack." No inquest was held. The body was taken by a funeral home and at that point official concern ended. A physician who examined the body at the funeral home at the request of Thornton's mother, however, says death may have been caused by complications resulting from an untreated wrist fracture. In any case, the private physician said, a post-mortem examination should be performed to settle the question. This is a matter that primarily concerns the family of the deceased and the people and officials of Wake County. But what happened during the 19 hours preceding Thornton's death ought to be the concern of every Tar Heel citizen. Reports in THE WASHINGTON TIMES indicate that during those 19 hours Thornton's jailers exhibited toward his prisoner a negligence that was cruel, if not criminal, and brutal, if not fatal. The reports stir ugly memories of the needless death of 18-year-old Eleanor Rush who was bound, gagged, locked in an isolation cell of Woman's Prison and left to struggle until she strangled her own neck. Last August there was the case of Alex Fulp who was able to bleed slowly to death from razor blade slashes in Central Prison's hospital ward, although he had reportedly made two previous attempts to do away with himself and had been moved to the hospital ward for closer supervision. According to a TIMES interview with a

cell-mate of Thornton—a Wake County farmer named Brotherton Allen who later was acquitted of the charge on which he was held—Thornton made a dozen unheeded pleas for medical treatment of a broken wrist between the time he was admitted and a few hours before he died. "Once," said Allen, "a jailer told Thornton that he would be put in a back cell where he couldn't be heard if he didn't quit bothering for a doctor."

Allen's narrative of the 19 hours Thornton was in the "care" and under the responsibility of the law concludes this way: About 3 or 4 a.m. Saturday, Dec. 10, I asked a jailer to get a doctor for Thornton. He did not answer. He just got a prisoner and left.

At five minutes to six that morning, Thornton was still struggling to get his breath. He rolled off the mattress and I rolled him back on. He took two or three deep breaths and died. About that time Pee-Wee (a trusty) came to sweep. He got the jailer. Thornton's doctor came in about 10 minutes. He did not touch the body. He and another man stood over Thornton and talked. Then the funeral men carried the body out.

Was this North Carolina justice, 1955-model? It was part of the picture. We hope THE TIMES' report will sink into the conscience of the state and thereby make it impossible for a man or woman in the hands of the law to cry for a doctor, and have no doctor until it is too late. The reports should redouble efforts to assure humane treatment for prisoners or inmates of every kind of institution, if they do not do so Thornton's agonies will be an indelible blot on North Carolina's reputation.

Decades Of Crisis: Ultimate Weapon Makes Its Debut

By THE ALSOP

EXACTLY TEN years ago today, the first column by these reporters appeared in a handful of American newspapers. It is an odd experience, entering into a way and said in another, to flip over the pages of that first year's scrapbook of columns and to note how times have changed—and how they have not.

There is a nostalgia, which the reporters may be pardoned for indulging at this season, in the yellowed clippings and the dated words. The first column begins with the remark that "the most conspicuous single fact in Washington today is Harry S. Truman," and concludes that "it is still an open question whether Truman can master his job."

The columns that follow are filled with names which are already dim in the memory, and political twigs which it is an effort to recall at all. There is much about "The President's cronies"—Ed Pauley, Vardaman, Vaughan, Steelman, Snyder, and the redoubtable George Allen, who has managed to retain his role as a Presidential crony until the present day. The roots about the President's appointment of Pauley to be under-secretary of the Navy, and Allen to be head of Reconstruction Finance, are analyzed in detail, and one wonders at this time these dusty bottles seemed so important at the time.

STEELE STRIKE? Then there are the other enraging struggles of the era, like Chester Bowles' fight with John Snyder over the OPA (remember OPA?), Henry Wallace's break with Truman, and John L. Lewis' Honorable battle with the administration. There is the contest between John Snyder and Lewis Schwellenbach (remember Schwellenbach?) for control of labor relations, and there is the great steel strike of that year, and the battle between the pro-

low pages of the decade-old scrapbook. There was much, even then, about the new weapons, which (as the six or seven persons who are believed to read this column fairly regularly may have noted) have been something of an obsession with these reporters. "Even now," one of the first columns remarked, "no one has grasped the fullness of the change in world power relationships wrought by the scientists of World War II." The early result of the new weapons, another column reported, was to "make possible that war between the continents which must haunt the imagination of every informed and imaginative man."

To be sure, it can be rather positively stated that the Soviets have not yet tested one of these huge rockets that can carry an H-bomb war-head from a Russian launching site to an American target.

COMPLIANCE? Firings of such rockets will unavoidably produce atmospheric and other after-effects. These after-effects can be detected by appropriate devices all the way around the world, as firing of nuclear weapons can also be detected. The American detection devices have not yet registered the firing of a Soviet ICBM. This perhaps explains the curious mixture of public complacency and public unhurt that has been the Pentagon reaction to the news from Moscow. But if Secretary of Defense Charles E. Wilson and his subordi-

ates are greatly reassured by the silence of our detection devices, they must have comfortably forgotten all the ugly lessons of the last ten years. TELEGRAPHED PUNCHES The truth is that the Soviets have quite regularly telegraphed their own people's development punches, boasting about each new weapon as soon as they were confident they had solved the design problem and were preparing for a test. For instance, Vyacheslav Molotov told another Moscow audience that the Soviets had announced an A-bomb, just about a year before the first Soviet A-bomb test in September, 1949.

STRANGE PATTERN Why the Soviets follow this strange pattern is a fascinating problem in itself, but the point here is that they have followed it with great faithfulness. Hence it is only prudent to expect that sometime within the next year or so, the Soviets will successfully test one of these inter-continental ballistic missiles, which are also called, and quite properly called, the Ultimate Weapons.

This will not be especially surprising either, as readers of many anxious reports in this space will readily recognize. As previously disclosed, the official U. S. intelligence forecasts some time ago named the year 1958 as the first probable date of a Soviet test of an Ultimate Weapon. But from the time of the A-bomb awards, these American official forecasts have invariably underestimated future Soviet achievements in weapons development by at least two years. All the known facts, taken together, only too clearly

meanwhile, where do we stand? The answer is that the Secretary of Defense Charles E. Wilson took office, he seriously tried

to cancel the American long-range missile projects, which he denounced as "visionary." Our armed services, he declared, were spending outrageous sums on research and development. The percentage of income that General Motors' spent on such purposes, he pointed out, was much, much less. It may sound like a joke, but it actually happened. Fortunately, Wilson was finally persuaded not to cancel the long range missile project in its entirety. Yet he caused them to be shelved for all practical purposes for the first two years of his administration or the war.

ACUTE DANGER There were more and more disturbing reports began to come in, showing a wide Soviet lead in missile development. The so-called Killian Report, which was first summarized in this space, revealed an acutely dangerous situation. Some months ago, the National Security Council voted to give an over-riding priority to missile development. And the Pentagon is now working all-out to build missiles, at least to the extent that the Wilson Pentagon is capable of going all-out in any field of weapons development. As a result, very important breakthroughs have been made in the past few weeks before Bulganski spoke, Secretary Wilson himself publicly stated that it would probably be about five years before we could first an ICBM. Thus, on present prospects, there will be a gap of three to four years between the first Soviet test of the Ultimate Weapon, and the equivalent American test.

This fateful prospect has hardly caused a ripple in this country, because of public ignorance about the military pool. Instead, the whole country ought to be up in arms. A report that the world will therefore be devoted to the meaning of this and other current events about \$500 African, and full-blooded white American, as there is between day and night.

—JOHN S. DICKSON

Dixie's Negro: A Wasted Resource?

BROACH the "Negro problem" to any group of southerners today and tempers are likely to sizzle like fatback dropped in a hot skillet. But out of the emotional atmosphere surrounding this aged-in-anxiety dilemma, a sobering fact emerges: The Negro is a part, both creator and creature, of southern culture, and for the region is responsible as for all other groups. Even those who despise the Negro will admit, if reluctantly, that he is an important factor in Dixie's economy. What is not always admitted is the fact that he will contribute more to the economic well-being of the region as he receives better education, better political, economic and social opportunities.

The South, for better or for worse, is inhibited by roughly 10 1/2 million Negroes. This figure represents a gigantic manpower potential. But it is fairly obvious throughout the southern states that Negroes are not contributing what they should to Dixie. They are not contributing because full use is simply not being made of all this human wealth.

The most regrettable aspect of the situation is the difficulty many intelligent Negroes have in securing a higher education. At the very time a great deal of public attention has been given to the pros and cons of racial segregation in Dixie's private schools, a separate philanthropic organization has centered its attention on ways to help talented young Negroes to get a college education. The National Scholarship Service and the Fund for Negro Students, sponsored by the Fund for the Advancement of Education, has undertaken the task in an effort to make fuller use of this important manpower potential. Its principal aims: To discover more college-qualified Negro students in the South; to encourage these students to develop their abilities; to provide them with information and assistance in obtaining college scholarships; and to furnish financial aid when needed. It is known as the Southern Project.

According to Benjamin Fine, one of the nation's leading education writers, the organization's talent search in Dixie has uncovered a surprising number of Negro students of college ability. In two years some 500 students have been aided. During this relatively short period, the project has greatly increased the number of southern Negroes enrolled in colleges, increased the number of information and testing facilities for future Negro college students, and, more important perhaps, increased professional and public awareness of an important slice of the nation's hidden manpower reserve.

Trained manpower is needed in the South and in the nation as a whole. With superior technical education, Negroes can help meet this need. Not only can they serve their own race better but they can benefit the nation's entire economic community. The aims of the Southern Project rise above prejudice. They are, in fact, more akin to national and regional interest.

"The annual capacity of the Mississippi," he declared, "is six hundred million, five hundred thousand." A student raised his hand for a question. "Six hundred million, five hundred thousand," the professor asked. "Gallons? Barrels, cubic feet?" The professor rummaged through his notes for several minutes, then shook his head. "Notes don't say," he replied, and continued with his lecture.

From The Carlsbad (N. M.) Current-Argus

THE VANISHING MALE

MEN have always smugly believed themselves to be permanent fixtures on earth, in the assurance that they are necessary for the propagation of the species. Well, gents, you'd better take a look at your hole card. A Eugenist, Helen Spurway, has set London medical circles in a tizzy by suggesting the possibility of parthenogenesis as a means of human reproduction. Parthenogenesis is a \$150 word meaning virgin birth. In simpler language, reproduction without the male. When the medical discussion got out in the English newspapers, British women came forward to claim to be parthenogens. The women and their offspring will be given elaborate blood tests and skin tests to determine the accuracy of their claims. Britain's so-called medical journal, the Lancet, is not taking parthenogenesis lightly. Dubbing the eugenist ideas, the Lancet stated that a "rare event which is held to prove is likely never to be reported at all if also 'known to be impossible . . . Possibly some of

the unmarried mothers whose obstinacy is condemned in old books may have been telling the truth." But here is the payoff. Man in parthenogenesis: the children would almost certainly be female since the ovum would contain only female chromosomes. Wouldn't you know it would be a woman who would be figuring out a way of eliminating the male from the human scene!

Judge—"You really don't think he meant to put your eye out?" "Oh! Slashed—"No, I don't, but I do believe he tried to put it further in"—LAMAR (Mo.) DEMOCRAT. A little boy who went to the ballet for the first time with his father watched the girls dancing around on their toes for a while, then asked: "Why don't they just like taller girls?"—MEMPHIS PRESS-SCIMITAR.

No, John—No, John—No!



Drew Pearson's Merry-Go-Round

WASHINGTON THE president-elect of this country's Juscelino Kubitschek of Brazil, arrives in Washington today. He might be compared with Gov. Lausche of Ohio, being descended from a Polish immigrant. Lausche was born of Slav immigrants. Lausche has worked his way up from the bottom. Political Surgeon His father died when he was a boy, he worked his way through school, also supported his mother. First as a telegrapher, then as a post office clerk. Preserving with his education, he studied surgery, became one of Brazil's most

A Political Doctor Visits Washington

successful surgeons, but, unlike most doctors, he also was a politician. First elected to the state of Belo Horizonte, capital of the state of Minas Geraes, he later became governor of that state in 1934. Now 54, Dr. Kubitschek is a dynamic middle-of-the-roader in politics, likes to be known as a "conservative-progressive." He will be the president of 60 million in an area bigger than the United States. Elected Oct. 3, he takes office Jan. 31. He a few-year term following his visit to the U.S.A. Campaign Promises In his campaign he promised his administration would strive for three major objectives: An expansion of electric power facilities; better communications of all kinds; greater production and better transportation to deliver farm products to consumer markets. Due to poor transportation and lack of storage, only 10 per cent of the food raised on Brazilian farms never reaches consumers. Kubitschek will promote the building of more silos and food warehouses with government help. In his campaign for the presidency Kubitschek was supported by the Brazilian Labor Party, founded by the late President Vargas, and the Social Democratic Party, which helped to put Vargas back into the presidency in 1945 after his ouster by the military in 1934.

People's Platform

'True Democracy': What Is It Really?

Gaiffney, S. C. EDITORS: The News. THIRTEEN letters printed in the edition of Dec. 10 summed up some very important truths that are of good consolation to anyone that wants to stay in the human race that God placed them in at the beginning. One writer's views of true democracy were somewhat different from the "true democracy" is not through the representation of any body of people, but by the popular votes of all the people at the polls. I thought about commenting on these letters at that time but I was hindered. But when I read a letter in reply to them of Dec. 16 I decided to advance my opinion.

DISAPPOINTMENT

When I read the heading of this writer's letter (People Due Freedom To Choose Associates) I thought he might be going to tell us something worthwhile. But as I began to read I found him kicking against the truth, and instead of wanting to close for himself, he wanted the dictators to choose for him. So I soon found as he checked that he was trying to build up "justice" on the decision of the Supreme Court which has made an effort to deprive him and all the other citizens of the nation, of their freedom and rights to choose by democracy (the voice of the people) whether they will be a pure race or an ungodly, adulterated nation of racemongers.

UNSATISFIED

I don't want to make my letter too long, but I would like to answer the question one of those older writers asked in her letter of Dec. 10 headed "Negro Shift-changed From The Beginning." It seems that she is not satisfied with being a Negro if she is one. Her question—why shouldn't

the Negro congregate with the whites? Then she mentions several races of people in the Negro race. She says all the races are social with the whites except the Negro race. Well, as your writing plainly shows, you are not satisfied with your "color," which no one can change. Then why should the whites be satisfied to mix with the Negro? I will tell you why. In the first place it would be the greatest act of adultery that the world has ever heard of. In the next place there is as much difference between a full-blooded African, and full-blooded white American, as there is between day and night.

From Salvation Army, A Note Of Thanks

Charlotte. EDITORS: The News. I WOULD LIKE to express through the columns of your paper, the grateful appreciation of the Salvation Army and my own personal thanks to the hundreds of people who have sent checks to the Salvation Army Christmas Fund and to the thousands of people who have put money into the kettles on the streets.

To all of these, and to the newspapers, radio, and television we owe a debt of gratitude. They have made it possible to carry on a good and worthwhile work among the needy and unfortunate people. As leader of the Salvation Army forces in Charlotte, I pledge our best efforts to merit the continued support and goodwill of all the people.

—MAJ. W. H. ARNOLD City Commander Salvation Army