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Mecklenburg Has Just Begun To Gripe

HE HAS been hoarding his peevish thoughts, and so we showed them as best we could in PROTEST PLAT- FORM yesterday. It was quite a collection. The gentleman from Forest City indicted us Mecklenburgers for griping about election laws, Blue Laws, City Council, the Court and the Auditorium and for being, in general, of a fretful, grumbling nature. The view from Forest City is pretty good. We believe the gentleman is right, although he erred in giving all the credit to a Scotch-Irish heritage. The grumbling hereabouts is fairly cosmopolitan. The complaint curtain is open to everybody, and is used without reference to ancestors. It will be a long time, we hope, before anyone in Forest City can accuse Mecklenburg of being a placid, peaceful place where infinite trust is placed in legislatures and City Councils, and where such complex expressions of sentiment as Blue Laws escape public debate. The idea that complaint is negative and unattractive has amazing virility for such a sick idea. If some Mecklenburgers criticized the building of the Coliseum, others criti-

cized the lack of such a facility. If some bitterly oppose the election law as discriminatory against political independents others cleave to it as the just desert of citizens who will not choose between two streams of political thought. City Council doubts often wearies of free advice and criticism, but partially because of such it manages to be as responsive as any we have seen, and more than most, to the attitudes and beliefs of the governed. This we think is what popular government is all about. The product of clashing opinions, if enough opinions are offered, is a genuine synthesis of popular will. But it is more than that. It is the spice and the flavor of democracy, the yeast that produces action, and the spark that lights up issues. There may be a place where government must act with unflinching wisdom, where protest and complaint are unneeded irritants and where placidity yields a premium. But it is not on the map. We take the gentleman's remarks as a compliment and noting the vigor of his complaint against Mecklenburgers we wonder why he doesn't move to these parts and feel at home.

H-Bombs And The Politics Of Survival

WE ARE not at all sure that the rough and tumble area of U. S. politics is proper setting for an argument involving lofty scientific principles. However, whether one approves or not, the H-bomb has become an issue in the current presidential campaign. In that it is a potential threat to every living person in the United States and abroad, the H-bomb is a proper subject for discussion. What is not proper is the subjecting of H-bomb policy to the hazard politics of the moment. The issue is complicated, of course, by the fact that it is international rather than national in scope. Elsewhere in the world, pressure continues to build up for either prohibition or limitation of nuclear weapons tests on humanitarian grounds.

Here in the United States, it would be fair to say that the majority view is quite different. It is that "properly conducted" nuclear tests at their present rate of frequency do not constitute a hazard to human health and safety and should be continued. This is rather curious in that, on one side, nuclear scientists, geneticists and other competent specialists are saying just the opposite. The solution does not rest in the ballot box. It lies in the conscience of the American people and their leaders and in the hard facts of natural law. Let the nation know. Political pride or military stubbornness must not be permitted to distort an issue which is so gravely personal to every man, woman and child in this uneasy planet.

Capitalism's Critics: All Bolsheviks?

IN "WHAT'S Behind The War on Business," Austrian economist Ludwig von Mises tells U. S. News & World Reporter readers this week why some Americans sneer at "laissez-faire capitalism." It is a rather gamy melodrama complete with all the elements of villainy and virtue—most of the villains being Communists and "anti-Communist liberals" who teach intellectuals, white collar workers and professional men to despise kindly old empire builders. The thesis is legitimate enough. For some reason, many Americans do occasionally feel queasy about the excesses of big business and the effects of mass technology. But to suggest that these discontented classes are opening the door to Communism is just plain silly. In the United States at least, it is possible for one to exercise his critical intelligence with regard to capitalism without becoming a Red or a Red sympathizer. For the most part it is not "big business" that is the real source of the non-conformist's discontent anyway. It is the heartless mass-produced standardization that has become the hallmark of the age of technology—an age innocently ushered in by "big business."

Anyone who merely damns "big business" because it is "big business" is by implication preferring scarcity and hierarchy to industry and plenty. But some of the by-products of our present technological age have been less than wonderful. In many ways, American life has become essentially a triumph of technique over purpose. U. S. citizens today are demoralized by speed, obsessed with gadgets, concerned not so much with the product but the package. The nation may even have become, as Louis Kronenberger has written, a "network of conformities," a crisscross of orthodoxies, "a rigidly blueprinted dream, a series of set, established visions." But Mr. Kronenberger adds in despair that "culture—in the old-fashioned, well-rounded sense of something civilized and civilizing alike—has not simply faded as a reality in America, but is fast fading as an ideal." We, however, have greater faith in the country's capacity for self-correction. The answer lies in our ability to adjust to the age of technology and find old values in its new challenge. Meanwhile, "big business" cannot be blamed for our apparent inability to adjust in a hurry. The fault may actually lie within ourselves.

It Takes Time To Fill A Political House

THE INDEPENDENT STATES RIGHTS Party, a new and almost empty political house, is advertising for members. The "hospitality of our home" has been offered by Presidential Nominee T. Coleman Andrews to five Republican donors—McCarthy, Jenner, Malone, Dworshak and Schoepel—and GOP Gov. Lee of Utah. Possibly they will get together, but it will take time. Sen. McCarthy, who held the Democrats reasonable and the Republican administration also soft on communism, may want to run a security check on this new party before joining up. Gov. Lee has been very busy defending his refusal to pay all his income tax to the Internal Revenue Service which

Mr. Andrews worked so diligently to reorganize into a more efficient collector of income taxes. And Mr. Andrews himself probably has been busy trying to think up a substitute for the income tax which he now says is "the worst thing that ever happened to the country." The problems for Messrs. Jenner, Malone, Dworshak and Schoepel would have no less time consuming one, how to get elected on the States Rights ticket. Two, how to defend the U. S. against the communism they hate if they are to achieve the isolationism they favor. The Andrews party definitely is against the income tax, communism, and foreign involvements. That much is plain. Maybe by 1960 the party can state what it is for.

STORM AHEAD—SOFT MUSIC PLEASE

ANXIETY, boredom and fatigue play a hand in air travel, according to a survey made by Muzak Corp. which indicated they are "the primary enemies of airline passenger comfort." Muzak, which sells tape recordings to several airlines already, says 82 per cent of the passengers interviewed put music down as their first, second or third choice as an antidote to anxiety, boredom and fatigue. If, when a bit of turbulent weather is encountered, the music is Delius's ON HEARING THE FIRST CUCKOO IN SPRING or MacDowell's TO A WIND

Rose, that should prove quite soothing. On the other hand, if Wagner's RING OF THE VALKYRIES or his FLYING DUTCHMAN storm music should be played as the plane rolls and tenses, soothing music would that be? Looks as though the hostesses are going to have to add music to their versatility—from arpeggios to zariels. For a while there it looked as though we Americans were being turned into heart specialists, but now it appears that we can qualify as general practitioners. —COLUMBIA (S. C.) STATE.

People's Platform Douglas Vs. Jonas: The Partisans Rally 'Round

Charlotte, The News: LET US ask my challenger for his views on Mr. Jonas' action pertaining to H.R. 4974 (Civil Service) Motion by Rooney (D. N.C.) May 1955, for the passage of H.R. 188. The motion: To eliminate sections permitting three government agencies to discharge employees against this motion, Mr. Jonas voted against the motion. My dictionary defines arbitrary as "subject to individual will or judgment" and "capricious; uncer-

tainable; unreasonable." All Civil Service employees take notice. The passage of this bill helps prevent the undermining of Civil Service and veterans preference protection. —J. C. JAMES

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CHARLES RAPER JONAS 'A Republican, But...'

make the grade. In fact, Eisenhower's utter mediocrity seems to be the only thing that appeals to a certain group of voters. Their whole idea is summarized in that parrot-like phrase, "I Like Ike." Sure, I do too, but to quote Tallulah Bankhead: "When you've said 'I Like Ike,' you've said everything." Being a member of the common herd myself, I know too well that I am not qualified for the presidency. Therefore, I am not voting for my own counterpart, but rather the prototype of what I'd like to be. My vote goes for that UNCOMMON man, Adlai Stevenson. —ELKANOR MASON EARLE

Danger To Kids On Eastway Drive

Charlotte, The News: I AM writing in the hope that I can get some attention to alter a dangerous situation. Every weekday afternoon loaded buses from Oakhurst Junior High School ride down Eastway Drive. Students are streaming out into the road from a nearby city school. The students seem to have no regard for their own safety. At several times during this school year, the students have stood in front of oncoming buses until the last moment and then stepped aside. Others have been careless and unthinking. There have been several narrow escapes within the last few weeks. The close call of a young girl this afternoon prompted me to write this letter. I sincerely hope that something is done to alter this desperate situation. If the situation continues as it now is, I feel that a tragic accident could occur before the school term is out. —JIMMY McNAULL

Reds Will Be Back For Rest Of Korea

Cheraw, S. C. The News: THE people will not be fooled and unthinking. The Republicans promise to so many, and fulfilled to the privileged few who control the purse strings of finance of our nation. I would like for some one to prove what war the Democrats started. I can't remember, but I know some that were under the leadership of a Democratic administration. Don't think for a moment that one person can keep a war away from our side. The Germans in 1918 wanted war and got one and in the last war they got another, and the Japanese wanted war and got one. The Red Chinese wanted war in Korea and got it. Which one of these wars did the Democratic Party start? What would you do if someone were to break in your front door to attack you. Fight back, of course. If you did not fight to protect your family and home, why don't you deserve a family and home. —J. A. GRAHAM

Tallahulh Was Right About The President

Charlotte, The News: YOU hear a lot about this democracy of ours being run by the common people. Then there's the cherished notion that anybody can aspire to the presidency. Well, this past election, "anybody" really did

Elvis The Answer To Teenage Prayer

Fort Mill, S. C. The News: I'VE read in The News where I people don't like Elvis but I have also read where many do. First, Elvis does not belong in any fair, and he's no burlesque dancer ever. Second, I think and I know his fans everywhere agree with me that he is the answer to a teenage prayer and the best singer in the last 10 years. Elvis knows how to capture a teenager's heart and he understands us, too, which is very nice indeed to us, which is why we like him. —BETTY STALLINGS

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Rep. Jonas Record Is One Of The Best

Charlotte, The News: WE, THE voters of the Tenth District, are soon to be faced with the 1956 general election. We have to choose between a Democrat and a Republican to represent us in Washington. In 1952 we elected as our representative Charles R. Jonas of whom we are very proud. For he has made one of the best records in the past 20 years. He is now asking us to send him back for a third term and I see no reason why we shouldn't. As for Mr. Douglas, there is no doubt in my mind that he is a nice gentleman. But to serve us in the Tenth District in my opinion he is not fully qualified. Jonas' record is open to the voters of this district. You may search it and you

Editorial For Ike Disappoints Many

Charlotte, The News: IT IS nothing less than incredible, considering your reasonable and temperate remarks of the past few years, that you should now perform the About Face of the year and support the re-election of President Eisenhower. This is an unbelievable admission of everything you have stood for in your fine editorial column. You have surrendered to pressure from some outside sources, from advertisers or large stockholders. This is a malady which affects many newspapers. I am told, but never to my knowledge has it been demonstrated so crudely as in your editorial of last Friday. You have constantly pointed out the danger of Nixon's rising to the presidency. But Friday you swallowed that fear. You have criticized Eisenhower for his "foreign policy" attitude about our foreign policy. But Friday you endorsed him in a way that cancels out everything you have written before. You have, I recall, found in Adlai Stevenson a leader of real stature.

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The Basic Issue Is Jonas' Record

Rt. 4, Matthews The News: I HAVE heard many people giving their reasons for intending to vote for Mr. Jonas for Congress. None of them, however, it seems to me, wants to defend his record as a legislator. I have heard that he is handsome, that he is a nice guy and that he writes nice letters. It seems to me that this is neither a beauty contest, a popularity poll, nor are we hiring a secretary. We are electing a man to the national legislature. In that respect the real issues of this campaign should be Mr. Jonas' record on the problems of the day. We know, for instance, that he has been opposed to legislation that would assist small businesses at a time when small businesses are losing 52 per cent while failures are up 61 per cent over the last eight Democratic

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Drew Pearson's Merry-GO-Round

WASHINGTON THE other day when this column approached Sen. Albert Gore, Democratic of Tennessee, about a Republican from Nevada who mistakenly asked him for funds to defeat a fellow Democrat in Nevada, Gore flatly refused to say anything. Private Letter However, we have now been able to get a private letter which Gore wrote to a friend in Nevada giving further details of the phone call. Money Raiser The man who phoned Gore thought he was Sen. Barry Goldwater, the roofter tootin' Republican of Arizona, formerly top fundraiser for Senate Republicans. In the letter Gore refers to the man as a "Mr. Stanford." However, he was actually William Stanford of Reno, Nev., who has been raising money for Rep. Cliff Young, the Republican candidate who is running for the Senate against

Sen. Gore Explains Touch By GOPster

Sen. Allan Bible in Nevada. Here is the letter which Sen. Gore, the man who is probing campaign funds, wrote about the phone call from the man who wanted more campaign funds. Phone Call "I just had a most unusual telephone call. When I returned from lunch, one of the girls told me that a Mr. Stanford from Reno had called, saying he had just arrived and hadn't slept for three nights but was most anxious for me to call him and not to hesitate to awaken him. She told me the call had only come in about ten minutes before my return. So I telephoned Mr. Stanford. Sen. Allan Bible in Nevada. Here is the letter which Sen. Gore, the man who is probing campaign funds, wrote about the phone call from the man who wanted more campaign funds. Phone Call "I just had a most unusual telephone call. When I returned from lunch, one of the girls told me that a Mr. Stanford from Reno had called, saying he had just arrived and hadn't slept for three nights but was most anxious for me to call him and not to hesitate to awaken him. She told me the call had only come in about ten minutes before my return. So I telephoned Mr. Stanford.

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