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Civil Service Takes A Step Backward

EDUCATIONAL requirements for city policemen and firemen must be restored immediately. Their removal in any event would have been unenlightened. The City Civil Service Commission's action—taken in secret and without public knowledge that such an important step was contemplated—was surprising and shocking as well. The action reflects badly on the City of Charlotte and on the present personnel who have met the high school diploma requirement and have reason for pride in the increased skill and competence of their departments in recent years. To say to them—as this action does indirectly—that persons without education could do their work as well—is not a way to boost morale. More important, however, will be the decision's effect on the future of the departments. Certainly persons without high school degrees can become efficient firemen and policemen. Some of Charlotte's finest did not finish high school. But the work of these departments has become more complex and scientific since they were equipped with education. The decision of a former commission three years ago to advance the education requirement from two years of high school to a diploma was taken in recognition of the need to attract the most highly trained men possible to civil service. Stiffening the requirement was the culmination of years of effort, as Mayor Van Every said, "to upgrade the personnel in these two departments (which) require industries of higher education if we are to perform the services required by our citizens." Some of those services are the taking of detailed information and the completion of accurate reports for use in court actions, responsible, informed and courteous dealings with the public, and steady performance of duty under high standards of conduct. This commission's action opens the door to appointment of ill trained and incompetent personnel. Since it agreed on "no publicity" its reasons are not known. Although it was news to us perhaps the fire department, as Chief Charles said, has had trouble finding recruits. But if that was a compelling reason, the problem should have been made known and thoroughly discussed in public. There are inducements to service other than wiping out educational requirements, and we believe those inducements could have been found in mature deliberations. Lacking any apparent justification for its action, the commission should rescind it.

An Atomic Pulse For Reddy Kilowatt

THE EYES of the industrial world turned southward this week as the Carolinas and Virginia crossed the atomic frontier. Pathfinders were Duke Power Co., Carolina Light and Power Co., South Carolina Electric and Gas Co. and Virginia Electric and Power Co. Their chartering of a joint corporation to harness the atom to electricity generators was a giant step forward, although the fallout was mist. Actually, the event will produce no overnight miracles. The TV tube and the factory machine hereabouts will be powered for many years to come by the energy of water flowing through turbines or by coal gas converting water into steam to operate generators. Production of nuclear energy through atomic fission or fusion processes is both expensive and dangerous. Initial plant costs are tremendous. Any commercial electric power produced by an atomic plant at this time would be substantially more costly than steam-or-water-generated electricity. But somewhere beyond the frontier these firms have just crossed, lurking in a forest of mysteries, is fulfillment of the promise of almost unlimited low-cost electricity from nuclear energy. The time had come to cross the frontier. In North Carolina and many other parts of the U. S. water supply is an increasing worry in a continuing industrial revolution. The huge aluminum works at

The Candidates Howl But Aren't Hurt

MR. EISENHOWER says Mr. Stevenson is talking "wicked nonsense" and Mr. Stevenson cries foul. The candidates are trying very hard to appear righteous and honorable. But somehow we can't quite see the wounds they so heartily complain about. Nonsense has been knee deep ever since the conventions opened, of course. But there hasn't been much "wicked" nonsense and there have been few fouls. Adlai and Ike slap at each other, but they do not really slug, and there's been nary a tap below the belt. So far the campaign has been as nice as anyone could have hoped. The contrast with 1952—when Mr. Nixon did

call Mr. Truman a traitor—is wonderfully refreshing. But it is lame even in comparison with campaigns previous to that. Sixteen years ago Wendell Wilkie was saying Franklin Delano Roosevelt intended to set up a dictatorship in America. And FDR, in reply, said the Republicans had that idea copyrighted. In 1948 Mr. Truman depicted Thomas E. Dewey as the kind of front man predatory interests set up, as they had established Hitler in Germany, "and see what happened." Historians may note that this year the nonsense made a little better sense than usual.

From The London Times

'STAP ME VITALS'

WHETHER our ancestors did lard their conversation with colorful exclamations as freely as historical novelists used to pretend, we do not know for certain, but we have the impression that gadzookery was at one time pretty rife and that even quite commonplace remarks were embellished with phrases like "odsododkins" and "Stap me viduals." Things seem to have quietened down a bit when people stopped wearing those enormous wigs, but the habit of exclamation persisted. "Merciful heavens!" the Victorians cried when registering surprise or perturbation. "Great Scott!" was a standard Edwardian ejaculation. Now we say "Gosh!" It is not so long since "Gosh!"—like "Gee whiz!"—"I'll be darned!" and other crude colonialisms—was a shock in trade of that ridiculous bore, the stage American. Now it is standard British usage, not by any means confined to (though almost universal throughout) the younger generation. "Golly" out of the same stable, is not unknown. It is difficult to say that can be done about this. A campaign to popularize some ejaculation more congruous to our national traditions (like "Shiver my timbers!" or "Great Hillary!") would be doomed almost from the start. The only thing to do is to let events

take their natural course, to rely on the great healer. Two or three hundred years hence, when our age has become the raw material of what (one rather hopes) will still be called "costume drama," audiences attending some roistering play about life in mid-20th Century London will find the goshes and gollies just as quaint and exotic as we find gadzooks. An optimist is a fellow who before starting on a vacation adds up all the items of expense to see what it will cost him and then deducts all the regular expenses which he will "save" by not being home, and tells himself that the resultant figure is what it really costs. —Knoxpress Times.

Grandma—Before you leave for the city, sis, here's some good advice. "Sis"—"Thanks, Grandma, what is it?" "Never slap a man who cheats to bacco." —FORT MYERS (FLA.) NEWS-PRESS. One reason why there'll always be an England: Great Britain's shipping may be able to get along without the Suez Canal, but what are the Egyptian swimmers going to do without the English Channel? —FLORIDA TIMES-UNION.

'Well, Nobody Can Say I'M Not Keeping On A High Level'



Innovations Are Coming How The Two Parties Differ

AT CLEVELAND and Lexington this week the President insisted "that there are deep and essential differences in the beliefs and convictions of the two major parties." I do not believe the facts support this theory. For while there are differences between the two parties, they are not very deep or essential in the field of their beliefs and their convictions. The new Republicanism which the President proclaimed at the San Francisco convention does not challenge, indeed it accepts and proposes to extend, all the big innovations which were made by Woodrow Wilson and Franklin Roosevelt. This covers not only the vast structure of the new welfare state, the federal protection of agriculture, the regulation of business and of banking, but also that most far-reaching of reforms within the Western capitalist order—the acceptance of federal responsibility for full employment and for the management of the business cycle. These innovations which have meant a vast extension of federal power have little connection with the essential beliefs and convictions of either party. As a matter of fact, according to his historic tradition which descends from Alexander Hamilton and Lincoln the Republicans should be the Federalist Party. They were that in the 19th century and down through the administration of Theodore Roosevelt. It has not been ideology but history, the turn of events in this century, which has made the Democrats over to the Federalist Party. CORPORATE EXCESSES The great reversal of roles took place in 1912. There had been building up for some 20 years before that a strong popular demand for public control of the excesses of the new corporate individualism. President Theodore Roosevelt, it is to say the least, can Roosevelt, undertook to make the Republican Party the agent of the reforms which the times

WELFARE STATE There is substantial evidence, I believe, for thinking that for the third time in this century the country is coming into an innovative phase. This is, I submit, the reason for the extraordinary upsurge of the Democrats at the grass roots. The new phase is caused once again by the country's need to bring its policies and measures abreast of the times. In the period of Franklin Roosevelt there was the need to overcome the miseries which the great depression revealed and provoked. It led to the welfare state and to the public regulation of the business cycle. The period into which we have now entered is dominated by two new historic developments. The one is the phenomenal increase of the American population. The other is the challenge and the dangerous competition of the Communist bloc. These developments will require great innovation and, unavoidably, a great expansion of public action at the levels of government, foremost at home, and at the federal level. Once again, regardless of how the presidential election comes out, the Democrats are destined to become the agents of these innovations. For while President Eisenhower would like to give the Republicans that role, there is little evidence that the Republicans who will succeed him are much concerned with it.

WOODROW WILSON A Party Reformer called for. Until 1900, while he was still in the White House, he succeeded very well indeed. But after 1912 anyone who had such ideas joined the Democratic Party. The Republican Party has always had a handkerchief in its pocket for the Democrats over to the Federalist Party. The period into which we have now entered is dominated by two new historic developments. The one is the phenomenal increase of the American population. The other is the challenge and the dangerous competition of the Communist bloc. These developments will require great innovation and, unavoidably, a great expansion of public action at the levels of government, foremost at home, and at the federal level. Once again, regardless of how the presidential election comes out, the Democrats are destined to become the agents of these innovations. For while President Eisenhower would like to give the Republicans that role, there is little evidence that the Republicans who will succeed him are much concerned with it.

A Few Good Hates Fill Life With Good, Inexpensive Fun

By ROBERT C. RUARK

LONDON AS LIBERACE came in, I left one of the greatest things about the airlines is that you can always abscond in a hurry. England is a tight little island, and there does not seem to be room for Liberace and me. I notice Princess Margaret took off, too, and she went as far as Africa when the rain falls, and the creditors press for funds and the seagulls and the liver anthers. I can always comfort myself with one thought: In my whole life, I have never seen Liberace on TV, nor have I ever seen or heard Elvis Presley. I have never met the Stewells, either, but that is merely a minor comfort. My biggest kick is in not having seen or heard Liberace and Elvis.

NEGATIVE TRIUMPHS It is really amazing that a number of negative triumphs a man can build up over a period of time. I have never read "The Brothers Karamazov" or "Mein Kampf" or "Das Kapital." For years I have avoided cricket matches as the very plague and dismias from my presence people who discuss them. Now I know very well that Liberace arrived in London with nine people, including his brother, his mother, 50 suits and a spare canofella, because I read it in an impeccably erroneous British news item. He arrived in a gold-threaded jacket, riding a piano, or something very like that, and he read about it, but I don't want to see it, or hear it. ODD FELLOW Touching on Presley, I must be a bit odd. I love to see girls wiggle when they sing, but wigging boys arouse no heat in my breast. Odd, I know, but there you are. I have many simple pleasures that cut nothing. I don't read the Russians because I do not believe anybody ever finished one of those 10-pound treatises on practically nothing and I don't even own one how it comes out, since it never really starts. (This is inexact, of course.) One of my greatest pleasures is not watching television. I love to sit and think about Betty Furness and Wendy Barrie, but separate from refrigerators. This is wonderfully saving on the eyesight. And think of all the politicians you don't have to listen to! ELVIS PRESLEY Some Are Unmoved alone makes the purchase of a TV set worthwhile, provided you don't play it in. BAD BOXING When I think of all the bad boxing matches, I envy plays, funny and cute commercials I have not seen and heard. I feel just like I was 6 feet tall, and I feel warm and relaxed and full of evil toward nearly everything except me. Avoiding certain people is great fun, too. MESSAGES When I think that there is no law compelling me to attend cocktail parties full of people who will tell me what is wrong with my life, work, and general aims, I feel so joyous that I often go out into the streets and throw stones at strange little boys who ride bicycles on the road in front of the yard. That is one of the most wonderful things I ever became proficient, unless it was the delicate art of being extremely rude to ugly women with messages.

Amid Flamingoes And Ducks Poles Showing Omens For Ike

By STEWART ALSOP

MONTECLAIR, N. J. THERE is very good news for Dwight D. Eisenhower on Wheatstreak St., Roselle, N. J. There is also a mystery on Wheatstreak St.—the mystery that makes American politics so endlessly absorbing and exciting and puzzling. The houses on Wheatstreak St. are small, two-story houses built since the war—neat and rather pretty and structurally almost identical. The people who live in them are proud of them. They are all every front door there is a small ironwork ornament—a railroad engine, an old-fashioned car, a dog. There are flowers around the front steps, and on about every third lawn there is a pink platter flamingo, or perhaps a platter duck followed by platter ducklings. COP ON CORNER A cop lives in the corner house—he is off duty, raising his lawn. There is a long-haired trucker in a other, a unionized aircraft worker in another, a white-collar man in a utility company in another. Racially, Wheatstreak St. is a mixture—German and Polish and Yankee stock. Economically, it is on the blurred border—a mixture of union workers, white-collar workers, and small businessmen with the former predominating. Wheatstreak St., in a word, is a thousand times closer to Truman than to the outskirts of every big American city. But in its very ordinary lies its mystery. This reporter and his partner, in this reporter and crew have visited other Wheatstreak Sts. There was a Wheatstreak St. under another name, on the outskirts of a Wheatstreak St. There was the same street, right down to the pink platter flamingos. And there was a Wheatstreak St. in Wisconsin. The Wisconsin Wheatstreak St. was heavily Democratic, as was the Wisconsin Wheatstreak St. was also normally Democratic, but it had swung in large part to Dwight Eisenhower in 1952, and—a sinister portent for the Republicans—looked like swinging back again. Roselle's Wheatstreak St. went heavily for Eisenhower in 1952—and it is sticking by him solid as a rock. A conclusion is based on a door-to-door check of Wheatstreak St. and the surrounding area. In this reporter and crew from Louis Harris Associates, the public opinion survey organization, a white-collar man in a utility company in another. Racially, Wheatstreak St. is a mixture—German and Polish and Yankee stock. Economically, it is on the blurred border—a mixture of union workers, white-collar workers, and small businessmen with the former predominating. Wheatstreak St., in a word, is a thousand times closer to Truman than to the outskirts of every big American city. But in its very ordinary lies its mystery. This reporter and his partner, in this reporter and crew have visited other Wheatstreak Sts. There was a Wheatstreak St. under another name, on the outskirts of a Wheatstreak St. There was the same street, right down to the pink platter flamingos. And there was a Wheatstreak St. in Wisconsin. The Wisconsin Wheatstreak St. was heavily Democratic, as was the Wisconsin Wheatstreak St. was also normally Democratic, but it had swung in large part to Dwight Eisenhower in 1952, and—a sinister portent for the Republicans—looked like swinging back again. Roselle's Wheatstreak St. went heavily for Eisenhower in 1952—and it is sticking by him solid as a rock.

Drew Pearson's Merry-Go-Round GOP Strategy Tailored To Adlai's Pan

WASHINGTON REPUBLICAN campaign strategy is working out beautifully and exactly as the astute Len Hall planned it. Hall, son of Teddy Roosevelt's coachman at Oyster Bay, got his start in the variegated school of Long Island politics which includes a well-rounded course in human relations. Reaction Hall figured that when the Democrats started pouring the heat on Eisenhower, Ike would react like every other human being and pour it back. There was official talk that the President would make only a few TV speeches from the White House. But Len Hall knew better. Fluid Strategy He didn't make too many plans in advance, kept his strategy completely fluid. For he knew, I think, that Eisenhower wouldn't give him the green light to campaign until the campaign got hot; 2. that he would know later when his weak spots would be and could arrange Ike's speaking itinerary then. It's working out exactly that way. Tailspin Hall knows what such a cancellation would do. The election would go into a tailspin. The doctors have gone along with these stepped-up plans, reluctantly at first, but they have come along. One reason why they gave their OK was because Ike was charging, straining at the leash, wanting to get out and answer his critics. Also they saw what exhilaration he got from the enthusiasm of the crowd during his speeches at Des Moines and Newton, Ia. So they figure the tonic of the crowds will do him good. Exhaustion Some of the schedules, however, are exhausting. When much younger newsmen who had accompanied the President on his trip to Cleveland and Lexington, Ky., returned to Washington they were worn out. They got home about 2:30 a.m. The President, flying in his private plane, got home about 12:30 midnight. However, he had delivered two speeches, had stood up for long periods receiving cheers of the crowd. The President sits down at every possible opportunity. The bubble top on his car is closed except on the outskirts of a town, at which point his party stops, lowers the top, and he stands up to wave at the crowds. Despite all the energysaving respites, the schedule is tough and the work would be a drain on any man, even one under 65. Recalls FDR Newsmen accompanying Eisenhower recall traveling with Franklin Roosevelt in 1944 on similar exhausting trips. In Philadelphia it was raining. But FDR was out in an open car taking salutes. Newsmen huddling inside dry limousines were

entirely wet. They were out of the rain and had hot coffee. —REMARKED SPECK TRUSSELL, veteran of The New York Times. "He has a cold tomorrow. But two or three months from now, this terrific drain on his energy will catch up with him." The following April it did. Harry Truman's Crow An untold story of Harry Truman's bellicose, belligerent mood after the Chicago private plane, just leaked out. He was so irked at the victory of the Stevenson-Kefauver ticket over his friend Gov. Harriman that he threatened privately not to endorse the ticket. He even considered going to Australia and the South Seas during the campaign. Today's Menu This caused near pandemonium in the Democratic camp. Some of the Stevenson people immediately got in touch with the man they consider closest to Truman—his former Secretary of State, Dean Acheson. They begged Acheson to call "the Old Man" in Independence, Mo. Acheson did so. And his opening salutation over the telephone was carefully geared to bring the ex-President out of his funk. "Mr. President," said Acheson, "the menu for today is crow!"