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THURSDAY, APRIL 19, 1956

Like's Leadership

A Flight From Responsibility

By MARQUIS CHILDS

WASHINGTON

IN THIS political year, in charge of a part-time President is bound to grow in volume.

But a look at the record shows that the heart attack has made comparatively little difference in his approach to the most difficult and demanding office in the world.

It is the chain-of-command concept under which broad authority is delegated to subordinates.

The President's farm program has been brushed aside by Congress in favor of the old rigid price support system.

On the issue of his foreign aid program, again it is the President alone who can make the case.

But Mr. Eisenhower has rarely gone to the public. The record shows that aside from the 1954 campaign he has been on radio and/or television 40 times during his first term.

READY-MADE ISSUE

This would seem to be an issue ready-made for the man who repeatedly has expressed his determination to be President of all the people.

Before he entered the White House, Mr. Eisenhower made many eloquent speeches.

Yet once in the White House he seemed to suffer from all sorts of inhibitions.

For one thing, the caliber of his speeches has not been high. He has had few who have been willing or able to spark discussion of the great issues of the day.

Given the proper setting and a theme close to his heart, the President has demonstrated that he can rise to an occasion.

ATOMS FOR PEACE
In December, 1953, he flew directly from the Bermuda coast

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EISENHOWER ON THE ROSTRUM To Little, Too Late?

have consisted of well-intended platitudes. One of the obligations of a president is to articulate the needs, the aspirations, the hopes and the ideal of the people.

This President Eisenhower has not done. This phase of the presidency is alien to his experience and background.

past happens to be represented by King Farouk and his Pasha, as it was here in Egypt; or by the French in North Africa; or by the curious neo-colonialism that is the work of Woodrow Wilson.

Whatever the past may have been, the impulse seems everywhere to be the same—to sweep the past into a corner and touch a match to it, and so to begin the hard task of creating a new order.

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Baxter Plan: Defeatism & Disinterest

OFFICIAL disdain for Councilman Herbert H. Baxter's plan to hold town meetings on city limits extension is becoming an inappreciable.

The meetings offer a reasonable and highly effective means of getting the city's case before the people who live in affected areas.

They would be dedicated to facts, not fiction. They would encourage discussion—and discussion is the essence of democracy.

Actually, it should not be necessary for Mr. Baxter to have to arrange the meetings alone. This chore should be handled by the mayor, in conjunction with the entire City Council.

Major Van Meter, while not opposing the plan outright, has not helped it either by his rather pointed lack of enthusiasm.

"You expose yourself to get knocked in the head," he told Mr. Baxter in public yesterday. "Just let your get chewed up at one of these hearings and you'll get the clue."

This defeatism is shared by some of Mr. Baxter's colleagues on the city's governing body. "Now, understand, I'm not opposing the meetings," said Councilman Claude Abbe.

Only Councilman Dellinger spoke spiritedly in defense of the idea. It would be different if the city did not have a case, if there were indeed no benefits from living inside Charlotte.

Force—or some elaborate form of legal coercion—may win citizens for Charlotte but no friends. Honest talk may win both.

It is the chain-of-command concept under which broad authority is delegated to subordinates. They are responsible for success or failure in their separate departments.

This is shown most clearly in the record of the President's public addresses during his first term. His predecessors felt it was part of their duty to go directly to the public with policies which they wanted Congress and the public to accept.

Again and again to nationwide audiences on radio and after the war on television, Presidents Roosevelt and Truman explained, expounded and persuaded. This was outside the campaign periods when the speeches they made were strictly political.

LOW RATING
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'Million Dollar Doodle' In Perspective

CITY MANAGER Henry A. Yancey's "million dollar doodle," like the Baby Giant Panda, just grew and grew.

It was during an informal conversation with News staff writer Dick Young that Mr. Yancey picked up his pencil and made a rough sketch of an ambitiously expanded City Hall, big enough for any number of additional municipal offices.

In a few swift strokes, the idea for a "quadrangle plan" in the present City Hall square was sketched out.

First, The News front-paged it to thousands of readers of Monday's late editions—with the assistance of a staff artist and Mr. Young's reportorial prose.

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While U. S. Drifts Aimlessly A Crisis Builds And Builds

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K&B: Ruthless Amiability In London

RUSSIA'S appeal for Middle East peace was analyzed succinctly by Londoners welcoming Khrushchev and Bulganin to their city.

Those practitioners of ruthless amiability, as New York Timesman Drew Middleton calls them, began a 10-day visit in Britain to the tune of cheers and jeers at Victoria Station.

There is nothing humorous about a Russian pledge to support a United Nations program for peace in the Middle East, nor about Moscow's call for Arab and Israeli to seek peaceful solutions.

There is much to cheer for the simple fact that Russia can guarantee peace by withholding the larger support Arabs must have to gamble on war and win.

The jeers are applicable to Moscow's motives. All experience says Russia would not move to prevent war for the sake of peace.

They want oil and warm water ports, which the British control in the Middle East, and a dissolution of the free world alliance. Since Moscow controls the dogs of war and Britain the oil and ports, the basis of a bargain is struck.

Thus what started out at Geneva as a little propaganda mission by the Kremlin team has been turned into a major test of British-American solidarity, and of Allied efforts to keep Russian influence out of the Middle East.

Ab, Nature in the spring! Can't work in home workshop because wind is nesting in tool box; can't keep mind on work at office because pigeons are furiously building nest outside window.

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Hirsute Hedges

ONE OF spring's minor blessings on us has been the trimming of a hedge at the corner of Selwyn and Pinehurst.

Until the hedge got a haircut a motorist entering Selwyn was well advised to cross his fingers, being unable to use his eyes to any advantage.

We commend Councilman Dellinger's assist to the form of a City Council order that all such hedges be trimmed and blind corners be thereby removed.

The matter was one of simple efficiency too long avoided.

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People's Platform

U. S. Negroes Are 'Most Fortunate'
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Quote, Unquote

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Drew Pearson's Grey-Go-Round

WASHINGTON
THE Kremlin has finally found a good use for the two British spies, Guy Burgess and Donald MacLean.

It is no secret among Moscow's foreign diplomats that Burgess and MacLean have been disappointed with their lot since they deserted the West.

They have been given minor jobs working on English-speaking propaganda and are kept under constant surveillance.

Red Rover Boys Told To Pat Heads

WASHINGTON
Hagerty, in the White House, Dewey should be able to get things done in Washington.

When it comes to foreign affairs, however, Thomas E. Dewey has a record of laying a great big egg.

When the Turkish government hired him at a fee of \$150,000 to get them a \$300 million American loan, Dewey came up with a paltry \$25 million.