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Fluoridation Didn't Kill The Goldfish

SHORTLY after Charlotte announced fluoridation of its water supply in 1949 complaints came to City Hall. Goldfish died. Shrubbery turned brown. Photo film was ruined. At least one citizen took to her bed complaining that fluoridated water scalded her throat.

to cancel fear. How powerful fear can be is demonstrated by Gastonia's decision to stop fluoridation after a campaign against it charging that fluoride in water is a poison aimed at blinding, crippling and numbing everyone who sips it.

Sweat, Shirtrails & Air Conditioners

THE air conditioner that cools the state's top legal brain is not above suspicion of subversive influence. Attorney General William Rodman looked at his window unit the other day and shook his head doubtfully.

ing in for dinner, wiping sweat with shirtrails, about the time the Raleigh News & Observer was crammed into the mail boxes carrying Mr. Rodman's intimation of guilt and identification with the reality of the folks back home.

The Night The Terrible Noise Began

IT HAPPENS every year, but the first was the worst. It was 3:50 A.M. we were lying there playing patycake with a mosquito when the ominous noise began. We'd never heard anything like it before and never have since.

lowing the thing, but out of earshot, thought it had left great fires in its wake. They saw great clouds of what appeared to be smoke, and smelled a strange oily odor. Meantime, we were momentarily thankful to have the mosquito for company.

No, Money Isn't Everything, But . . .

THE Republican Party's "embarrassment of riches" even has National Chairman Leonard Hall in a dither now. He has begun to poop-poh the importance of those bulging GOP campaign chests in selling the party to the people.

Next, he demanded that the dining room be emptied so that he could eat in absolute quiet, and paid for that, too. On the beach, for a mere \$1,000, the management routed all bathers within a radius of 100 yards.

People's Platform Midtown Parking Ban 'Definitely Hurts Business'

Charlotte
Editors, The News:
I HAVE read with interest what is purported to be an enthusiastic acceptance of the Hoose plan on the new parking restrictions on Tryon and Trade Sts. I wish that I could be as enthused.



Tryon Street Empties Quickly When Peak - Hour Parking Ban Is In Effect

I went along with the proposal on a trial basis. My answer now is that this ban in the afternoon is definitely hurting business. My observations are based on discussions with merchants. The morning ban is not as objectionable as the afternoon ban. For your information, we up-town merchants may just as well close our business at 4:30 p.m.

Of Superstition - And Religion

rights to a few in government. This should concern the Negro as well as the white race for if a government, by a court ruling, can rule against one race's wishes it can rule against the other also. Then there is our freedom to do as we may choose? So I appeal to the Negro and the white. Let's drop this unfair ruling where it is. For it's no good for either side. We all will suffer in the long run if we accept it, for the majority of all races oppose it and will be the end of it.

I haven't seen any of this economic pressure the NAACP speaks of around here against the Negro race. I would like to ask why don't you see stories printed in the new papers of the race riots in New Jersey and in the state of New York between white and Negro youths. No, it's not printed. The only way we learn of most of it is by newscasts on radio and TV. What's wrong? Newspapers in the City of New York are you afraid of the NAACP? You might be. But there are millions of good people who are not afraid of that outfit.

It's Good To Live Here In America

Charlotte
Editors, The News:
RECENT comment concerning the independence we have as a free people. First, I would like to say you should take stock and see if you in your mind are letting all the people enjoy their independence. And as for the Constitution, it was written on the basis of democracy, and the New Deal Supreme Court, as you call it, has only reminded the people of it. As for the labor unions, I would say organized labor has helped make this country the great country it is today.

'Gee, It's Time To Go Crusading Again'



Negroes Are Treated Better In The South

Charlotte
Editors, The News:
WE free people of this great nation of ours, have just celebrated another Independence Day which we all should be proud. We can do as we choose as long as it does not violate our federal and state constitutions. Although there are those today in our great land who by court rulings are trying to force their wishes upon the whites and the majority of our colored people. They are trying to tell us how we should live and associate and mix with those they want us to mix with, whether we wish to or not.

Drew Pearson's Wickersham Runs Scared In Oklahoma

WASHINGTON
SOMETIMES it takes a long time to eventually the American voting public gets wise. The democratic system always prevails. The last few weeks it looks as if the voters of Oklahoma had got wise to their real-estate congressman, Rep. Victor Wickersham, Democrat of Mangum, Okla. Next week, they may perjure him out of a job. Toby's On Top Three weeks ago a margin of voters figured their boy in Congress needed a desperate campaign. With ample money to spend and a well-groomed publicity, he is pulling every political trick out of the bag, especially the usual bait-and-switch, cynics' sneers against Judge Morris. He's used his congressional frank to a great effect. He offered Sheriff Everett Hale of Comanche County \$2,

500 to handle his campaign, which he called a meeting of contractors in the Skirin-Tower Hotel in Oklahoma City to raise more money in a desperate effort to keep his place as the son in Washington. Despite all this, he's been so far on the losing side. Lincoln Was Right In contrast, Judge Morris had exactly \$2,500 left when the polls opened in the first primary. A little money has trickled in since, but apparently he hasn't needed much. He's had one mighty good substitute — the fact that Lincoln was right when he said, "You can't fool all of the people all of the time." Queer Payroll Looking back on the long congressional career of Victor Wickersham, it must be admitted that he has fooled a lot of people a long time. Looking back through my files, I find that I published a story as early as Dec. 12, 1948—seven years ago—showing how Victor had put James W. Taylor on his congressional payroll, paid \$7,200 by all the taxpayers though he was traveling for the Herd Equipment Co. of Oklahoma City at the time, also how Lloyd Matthews, who hadn't been around the congressman's office for months, was employed in Victor's Washington real-estate office at \$2,250—paid by the tax-

payers. Victor published in 1949 was the fact that Wickersham, unwilling to support his 72-year-old father, put him on the Library of Congress payroll, later got him a job as a capital director operator. After this, Victor called me a liar. However, on the day this column was published, his assistant, Lloyd Matthews, wrote this significant letter to Aubrey Witt, also on Wickersham's staff. "Mr. Wickersham told me to do exactly what I had planned to do anyway, keep my mouth shut. Amazing how a man's magnanimity increases in direct proportion to the duress under which he is subjected. Out of the clear blue sky, assumed me low. I would like to help with the census. His remark was plainly forced, but he said it. Adding whipped cream to the desert, he continued: "How would you like to go to West Point?" Real Estate Ventures Victor made a pretense of going out of the real-estate business after that. He said he turned over his office in the nation's capital to his brother-in-law, Paul E. Butterfield, who was later convicted of not returning purchaser's deposits. With the lapse of time, however, Victor has cast all pretense to the winds. He has been in the real-estate business

siders this occurrence in the realm of his mercy? Is it the god that has recently looked on the United States as the chosen nation or is it the god that blesses, in particular, the Italians or the English? Is it the god who commands all people to worship his divine son by drinking wine or grape juice, depending on the prohibition god? or is it the god who considers this all too ritualistic? Is it the god who never allows married people to be separated in his sight or is it the god who prefers divorce? Is it the god that demands one of his subjects to stab his son to death for a divine sacrifice or is it the god that blesses all little children?

Anyone, even a Christian, could fill up pages with the different gods the Christians worship, and so far as each of the hundreds of churches, honestly profess, their particular one is God. The contributor also states that no Christian believes that "the creation of it stands is perfect" so I can only conclude that the god he worships does not construct things properly.

I stated in my previous letter that the Christian faith was blind and unreasoning. Happily, the contributor confirmed this by saying the Christians "recommend a faith which is open-minded and reasonable, taking the known acts of religion, weighing them, following them sincerely. . . . If an institution recommends that you do this or that, weigh them and follow them sincerely without teaching also that you should stain their knowledge of other institutions in order to be able to doubt that which may be false, that is, indeed, blind faith which is followed or gross deception which is taught. —CLAUDE HASTY

Teenagers Are Full Of Excess Energy

Charlotte
Editors, The News:
HERE'S to the kids who grew up during the "Roaring Twenties" who walk our streets as men and women, who fight everything their children want and still have the nerve to ask, "What's America coming to?" Let me tell you that it's coming to, exactly what you make it come. It's their peak of power or the end. Do you realize that when you call your daughter "a savage" because she prefers rock 'n' roll music to the "long hair" type, you are calling a future American leader, maybe a congresswoman, that name? Or have you ever stopped to think that the son, whom you refused a "drag strip," may someday sit behind the desk of authority in Washington?

Teenagers are full of excess energy. Somehow they've got to rid their systems of this energy. During the depression, kids had to work. Kids of today aren't allowed to get a job and work until they're 16 or 18. Why? It would be of great value to lots of kids if they could get a small job and work during the summer. There are a lot worse things they could be doing. If a boy or girl is refused employment until he or she is 16 or 18, by that time they've learned to enjoy loafing so much they don't care to work. What fault is it? In like manner, if a man doesn't have a good job or hasn't acquired a fortune by the time he is 40, he's a sunk.

The teenagers of Mecklenburg County want a "drag strip." You deserve a "drag strip." If your son or daughter drives recklessly on a public highway and is killed, you who fight us teenagers having a "drag strip" killed that boy or girl just as surely as if you had twisted a knife in his heart. If he did get a "drag strip," I dare say half of you who fight a "drag strip" would be there, trying your skill.

Teenagers are going to do something to rid their systems of their energy. Why not take some of the policemen that patrol America's highways and let them supervise a "drag strip," where men and women boys and girls can try their skill behind the wheel of an automobile? —BARBARA RUSS.

IT WAS UNDENIABLY A HOUN' DAWG

WELL, sir, after all these months in exterior darkness, we finally caught Elvis Presley the other night. He turned up in white tie on the Steve Allen show, and rendered two numbers. The first of these appeared to be entitled, "Ah Wa-anant Yuh, Ah Ne-e-d Yuh, Ah Lu-uh-uh-uh-uh Yuh. With As-a-ll Mah Uh-Huh-uh-uh-uh by Mr. Presley. Either that is the name of the ballad, or Mr. Presley had the hicups. The words of the second aria were not so clear; indeed, the song appeared to have no lyrics at all, in the usual sense. A basset hound, recumbent, adorned with a top hat, was fetched on stage. Mr. Presley, in tails, thereupon fixed the poor beast with a wild stare and cried fiercely, "Yew ain't nawthin' but a houn' dawg!" The animal winced, visibly, and turned its eyes. Mr. Presley was by this time repeating the assertion, more loudly than before; and the witness, speechless, was unable to deny that he, or it, was in fact no more than a hound dog. This continued for quite some time, but the essential theme never varied. Mr. Presley had discerned that the animal before him was demonstrably, pal-

pably, manifestly, and undeniably nuthin' but a houn' dawg. The dog, it may be said, played his role with great dignity. And after a while, Mr. Presley, triumphant, desisted. Of this remarkable coloratura, it may be suggested, in absolute confidence, that the philosopher's rule applies: This, too, will pass. So did marathon dancing. So did flagpole sitting. So did goldfish swallowing. So, indeed, did Hadacol. Peace, we would say, to Mr. Presley's teenage legions. Love Elvis if you will. The idolatry will end, we should judge, about the time the teenagers grow out of their teens. A movie starlet claims a special raw meat diet helped her add inches to her figure in the right spots. She said she used hamburger. But it sounds like baloney to us.—NEW ORLEANS STATES.

WASHINGTON
SOMETIMES it takes a long time to eventually the American voting public gets wise. The democratic system always prevails. The last few weeks it looks as if the voters of Oklahoma had got wise to their real-estate congressman, Rep. Victor Wickersham, Democrat of Mangum, Okla. Next week, they may perjure him out of a job. Toby's On Top Three weeks ago a margin of voters figured their boy in Congress needed a desperate campaign. With ample money to spend and a well-groomed publicity, he is pulling every political trick out of the bag, especially the usual bait-and-switch, cynics' sneers against Judge Morris. He's used his congressional frank to a great effect. He offered Sheriff Everett Hale of Comanche County \$2,

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up to his ears, and made no bones about it. Probably he has bought and sold more land than any other congressman in all American history. This is not because few congressmen have ever been in the real-estate business, but because Victor has gone in for really extensive operations. Neat Profits One's deal involved a half-million-dollar land purchase 20 miles outside of Washington in southern Maryland where the Air Force planned a signal installation. Another was the purchase of 376 acres near the Potomac in western Maryland, which, it just happened, was covered by the Geological Survey. This deal netted Victor a profit of about \$185,000. Soaring Values Another deal was on the other side of the Potomac in Virginia, not far from where the Central Intelligence Agency plants a huge new town. Land values there that area have been shooting up like crazy. Victor has also purchased other parcels of land around the nation's capital—200 acres here and 100 acres there. As a result of dispersion to get away from the "hot" areas, many government offices are moving to the suburbs, and with them the congressman from Oklahoma has made a killing.