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WELFARE ROLLS AND SECRECY

SHOULD public welfare rolls be opened for public inspection?

Sen. Fred H. McIntyre of Mecklenburg County and 22 of his colleagues believe that they should be opened. The 23 Senators have introduced a bill requiring quarterly public reports on the names, addresses and amounts paid to all persons "receiving assistance payments or other benefits of any kind. . ."

Behind the move is a long public debate on the question that erupted at the 1951 Governors' Conference in Gatlinburg, Tenn., into a unanimous declaration against a secrecy provision in the Federal laws.

Partially as a result of this declaration, Congress adopted the Jenner-Dirksen rider to the Revenue Bill of 1951. It said that Federal funds should not be withheld from Indiana) that permits access to its welfare any state (as they had been withheld from rolls, but added two safeguards:

1. The states must forbid the use of welfare lists for political or commercial purposes; and

2. With the exception of disbursement records, other information directly connected with welfare administration should be restricted to persons and agencies officially interested in welfare.

Secrecy of welfare rolls has its proponents and opponents.

Proponents argue that the lack of secrecy infringes upon the dignity and privacy of the recipient, that it sometimes shames off the rolls persons who are really in need, that it only whets the appetite of the curious, and that it has no particular effect on the chiseler.

Those who favor publicizing the welfare rolls contend, on the other hand, that inspection increases public confidence in the efficiency and integrity of the welfare system, that it helps the taxpayer by exposing chiseling or favoritism, that persons who honestly merit assistance have nothing to fear from publicity, and that it encourages welfare officials to do more pruning of the rolls.

Today eight states have authorized access to records of Federal-state welfare programs, and 15 states that take part in the general assistance program allow inspection.

So far, there is little evidence that elimination of the secrecy provision has had any material effect on the size of welfare rolls. Recently Tax Foundation published an extensive analysis of the subject, and concluded:

"In the final analysis, conclusive data on the results of opening welfare rolls are not yet available. Much of the pro and con argument is based on intangible factors, such as the psychological effect on welfare recipients made susceptible to public exposure. Nevertheless, any lasting government program must have the confidence as well as the financial support of the public. Since public inspection undeniably has enhanced public confidence in the integrity of the welfare rolls, this might well be the determining factor in ending welfare secrecy."

In the absence of clear-cut evidence, we have no strong convictions on the issue raised by Senator McIntyre's bill. As a general principle, however, we believe that the taxpayer has a right to know how all of his money is spent, except that part devoted to certain defense and security purposes. If the bill is passed, we anticipate no great reduction in the size of the welfare rolls.

FROM MONKEYSHINERY TO MANHOOD

IN THE PAST, fraternity hazing at Davidson College has fit just half of Webster's definition ("to harass with abusive or ridiculous tricks"). There was very little abuse, save an occasional wielding of a well-fashioned paddle. Mostly the neophytes were subjected to treatment that was beneath their dignity as individuals and beneath the professed ideals of their lodges.

Now even that rather mild form of "hell week" has gone by the boards. This week Davidson fraternity pledges opened the new "Greek section" with a book drive for Mecklenburg County Home library. Afterwards, their chapters assigned them to various tasks. The ATO's went to work redoing the Charlotte Rescue Mission, the Phi Gams applied their energy to repairing the school track the Phi Deltas worked on Erwin Lodge, the Pi Kappa Phis and SAE's built pingpong tables for use in the Welfare Dept.'s program for delinquent boys and girls, and on down the line.

The old forms of hazing contributed nothing to the individual, to the fraternity, or to the general welfare. It was a tradition, with origins in antiquity, a tradition without meaning or purpose, an anomaly at an institution with the high intellectual standards of Davidson College.

We're happy to see it go, and we make our manners to the Davidson Inter-Fraternity Council for fashioning this new and useful outlet for the energies of its fraternity men.

A CACHE OF BUTTER, TO BARTER FOR CASH

SECRETARY of State John Foster Dulles was no great hit on his continental tour, to put it mildly. Europeans did not appreciate his continued exhortations to unite, sometimes expressed as a warning or threat. On the other hand, Congressmen and, for the most part, the American press loved to hear these stern words from a Secretary of State. Here was a Secretary who would stand up and tell those Europeans. Yes, sir, they said, no pussy-footing about this fellow Dulles.

We think Secretary Dulles' recent statements can best be understood against the background of an episode that occurred when he was negotiating the Japanese peace treaty. General MacArthur, you'll recall, was still in command in the Far East at the time. And Mr. Dulles was publicly heaping praise and adulation upon the aloof commander. Privately, however, he bitterly criticized the general.

Later a reporter asked a close associate of Mr. Dulles about this peculiar behavior.

"Dulles got the results he wanted, didn't he?" came the reply. "They were good results, weren't they? So what are you beefing about?"

This appraisal makes the point emphasized by several men who know Dulles well. The man is a pragmatist. He seeks a particular objective, then seeks to remove potential obstacles. Thus, by buttering up old Mac, he changed a potential adversary of his plan into a supporter. The treaty was signed midst a flurry of fine phrase-making and mutual congratulations.

If, as we believe, this appraisal of the Dulles technique is correct, Congress is now getting the "butter" treatment. Every editorial blast against Dulles from Europe—and there were many in the wake of his whirlwind tour—strengthens his stand at home. By appealing to the popular Congressional fancy that if Europeans unite somehow everything will turn out all right and they will get off our back, the Secretary is storing up treasures on Capitol Hill, to be expended later on when the realities of foreign aid and other international commitments must be faced.

From The Salisbury Post

PATTER ON PATTERNS

IT WILL BE EASY to raise eyebrows at the $3.50 million the Ford Foundation is giving to a project known as the Center for Advanced Study in Behavioral Sciences—a program covering six years. A chief feature, it seems, will be to finance the assembling once each year of some 50 scholars and scientists to exchange views on why people behave like human beings, although there is hardly even a near-scholar who has dabbled in psychology who would not gladly pay his own way any old day for a chance to air his theories. The behavior of psychologists might merit study.

The general nature of the announced project also seems to open avenues for all sorts of tangent circumlocutions. Today's social problems, we are told, demonstrate man's need for better knowledge of himself; it is hoped the project "can further the scientific study of man", and wordy things like that.

Give the average Salisbury resident two of those allocated dollars, and he could hold forth for an intelligent hour on human behavior—what, when and why. A great deal of so-called psychology is just hogwash, and most of the highfalutin phraseology about emotional areas and instinctive retrogressions and complexes could well go down the drainpipe. When people are physically and mentally and spiritually well, they cling closely to conduct patterns. When they are sick in some way they just don't. Everything new and not known to our grandfathers which sonorous psychologists have learned—or sacrificed for ordinary mortals—could be put in one's eye. Most of their treatises merely confuse instead of helping.

Maybe human behavior isn't up to snuff. Maybe people and nations do odd things. Maybe some particularly stupid, or unusually brilliant, people cannot or will not level themselves out on average planes, hence "make an effective adjustment and achieve a social balance" as the savants phrase things.

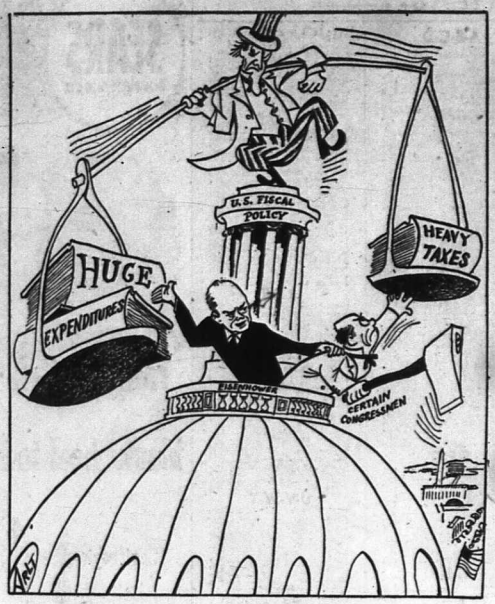
Yet the strivings to equalize everybody are both futile and foolish. Practically every genius or great achiever on record cared not a whit about "adjustments" to his fellows. More efforts could fruitfully be expended in helping persons of special talents break away from mediocrity and all those fancy "norms", soaring above averages, encouraging individuality and avoiding patterns like the plague.

The Council of State Chambers of Commerce wants the government to turn over to private enterprise all those businesses which the government has handled "with indifferent success, not excepting the Post Office". We are intently listening for reaction to this proposal from the several thousand Republicans who plan to become postmasters.

A local housewife said last week: "There's nothing like a dishtowel for wiping that contented look off my husband's face."—*Nashville (Ga.) Herald.*

The average person speaks 4,000 words a day, we read. The average woman, however, is not an average person.—*Bristol (Tenn.) Herald Courier.*

'No, No, Over Here, First!'



People's Platform

Letters should be brief. The writer's name and address must be given, but may be withheld from publication in the discretion of the Editors. The News reserves the right to condense.

Proposed Knife Law Opposed

MATTHEWS

Editors, THE NEWS:

Have you measured your pocket knife yet? A two and one-half inch length of tape is attached for your use to help you decide whether you want to go along with Arthur Goodman's-for-Mecklenburg-only-bill.

It would outlaw my knife and that of most men and Boy and Girl Scouts.

Mecklenburg County does not seem so bad to me that we have to have special criminal legislation to protect us from one another. In years of working with children I have learned that the more people are irritated and confused with constant regulation the less inclined they are to pay attention to any laws. You and I are the same way. Just how far can folks get with you by nagging?

If obeyed, Goodman's-for-Mecklenburg-only bill would protect no one. A splintered coca-cola bottle would be just as deadly and he would not outlaw it.

If violated, Goodman's-for-Mecklenburg-only bill would benefit no one but lawyers. It might help lawyers convince some of the week-end rounders that they needed legal services, witnesses to say that the knives, dirks, razors, and ice-picks were hanging outside on spot chains. Would we have billboards at county limits warning travelers of our customs?

We have enough laws now that are little understood and seldom used. Fortunately some of the Mecklenburg legislators are busy enough with committee work and state matters and problems referred to them by local groups not to dream up Mecklenburg-only-for-headlines legislation.

—BEN HOOD.

Liked Special Edition

NEW YORK

Editors, THE NEWS:

Congratulations on your annual Business and Pictorial Edition of January 30. Thumbing through it was an enjoyable experience and I was thrilled to see The Charlotte News looking so well. The typography and printing are fine, and the prosperous "look" of the paper gave me a feeling of satisfaction as I ran through it, page by page.

BEN DALGIN, Director
Art & Production
The New York Times.

Approves World Federalists

CHARLOTTE

Editors, THE NEWS:

I AM forwarding a contribution of one dollar to the World Federalists as a sign of my approval of their noble motives.

The ghouls of the lower regions laughed when man appeared upon earth. They are still laughing. Survival is inherent in universal attainment of justice and equity among men, full natural right, and the opportunity to develop the maximum experience of moral and intellectual powers with which man may be endowed. Was not that truth told by the lowly Gallilean?

We have had law for ten thousand years, strange religions always, and there has been slavery, and absolutism, and feudalism, and colonial imperialism, and nations and federations, and court houses and temples. A hundred armies march, a hundred languages mumble on the tongues of a hundred races, a hundred navies ride the seas, and treaties are made and federations are formed. Nations pursue their separate interests and the human race still lives by the law of the jungle, dog eat dog, and force is the universal law in a world that crucified Christ.

We follow the lamp of science and it may be that looking down the vista thus opened we shall see formed or forming our ultimate destiny. We have between us and that Utopia of which the World Federalists dream the self interest of nations, language, strange religions, and favorable and unfavorable locations of the peoples of earth.

Men try to eat the sweat of other men's faces; nations try to eat the sweat of other nations. Universal peace will be won by the spirit of man, and not by iron shard, nor belching cannon, nor by armed ships of air and sea.

—BOYT EAVES.

Politicians And The Law

ALEXANDRIA, VA.

Editors, THE NEWS:

"Good law enforcement and politics, like oil and water, do not mix."—From an editorial in The News, Feb. 4.

I don't want to quibble about words taken out of context, but the sentence quoted above does seem to be the kind of corrective remarks. If the word, "politics", means to us "dishonest management of public affairs", then your statement is certainly true. Unfortunately, for most of us, this is the meaning that "politics" has, and this is the meaning that rings in the ears of children as they grow up. This is an old and oft recognized fact.

Another fact which is just as well known as it is consistently disregarded is the fact that "politics" has this meaning because of our irresponsibility in our choice of the politicians whom we elect.

If we never wake up to the fact that good law enforcement will only result from electing good politicians, then we'll continue to have poor or corrupt law enforcement. As long as we do not care enough, as long as we fool ourselves into thinking that law enforcement and politics are separate realms and do not mix—just so long will we get what we deserve: "spiritual wickedness in high places". If we do not believe this, then we have ceased to believe in democracy and we ought to realize it.

—HENRY A. DICK.

Quote, Unquote

It will be recalled that when Woodrow Wilson announced his famous 14 points, old Clemenceau, the tiger of France, said that the good Lord had only 10. General Eisenhower, with nine, at least is making a reduction numberwise.—**Lexington Herald.**

Let's Have No More Talk Of Rich Men's 'Sacrifice'

By MARQUIS CHILDS

WASHINGTON

ONE thing President Eisenhower is surely discovering, and that is that the White House is a lonely and isolated place. One Presidential memoir after another has revealed this feeling of isolation and remoteness — of being a kind of prisoner.

The prisoner in the White House, surrounded as he is by so many layers of officialdom, finds it hard to know what the people in the country are actually thinking. Subsiding within the protective custody of the office, some Presidents have to their great misfortune lost touch completely with the great mass of humanity on the outside.

The event making the most headlines since Jan. 20 has been the controversy over the confirmation of the business executives named to top positions in the Defense Department. The reaction is coming in Congressional mail from many people who are puzzled over the use of the word "sacrifice" in connection with the necessity of these men to pay a capital gains tax on the profit they make by reason of the sale of stocks in companies doing business with the Defense Department.

CONSTITUENTS PUZZLED

This matter of sacrifice was raised the other day by Sen. Francis Case (R-S. D.). He said he had heard from some of his constituents who protested that poor boys were being drafted for Korea while the sons of well-to-do families were deferred to go to college.

In every war the question of equality of sacrifice arises. To close the colleges down would be to do irreparable harm, and that is especially true in an age of technology when the cry is for more engineers and technicians. With a limited war such as that now being fought in Korea, the question is particularly difficult.

It is not fair to say that college is a way out of service in Korea. This reporter knows young college graduates who have sought combat duty in Korea because they believed they had an obligation to repay their country for the privilege of freedom, opportunity, education. Undoubtedly there are many such instances, along with others who have gone under compulsion.

But certainly that word "sacrifice" should be used sparingly. Recently the St. Louis Post-Dispatch printed a letter from a minister in a small Midwestern town. He wrote that on the following day he had to preach a funeral sermon for a young American killed in Korea who had gone out of a sense of duty, leaving a wife and two children and having given up a job paying $3,500 a year. The letter said:

"I voted for President Eisenhower. He has a difficult task. He has called for all to sacrifice. If any man can help to save these lives of our boys, they should do so voluntarily.

"Let not the terms which have been used to describe the giving of blood on the battlefield be ascribed to the surrender of economic wealth or position; especially when such surrender is made by those who have ample left."

As probably the new Eisenhower appointees would be the first to acknowledge on sober second thought, it is in reality a privilege to serve the government in high office. Or so it was considered until recently. If a man's family were put at a serious disadvantage, that would be something else. But this is not true of the men in the Eisenhower administration.

When the Defense nominations were before the Armed Services Committee, Senator Harry F. Byrd (D-Va.), who more than anyone else was determined that the letter of the law should be complied with, reminded some of his colleagues of an episode bearing on the matter of "sacrifice."

When the late Henry L. Stimson was nominated Secretary of State by President Hoover in March, 1929, he sold all his stocks accumulated over many years. He sold them at that high point of the great bull market and, when the market crashed a few months later, Stimson had his money in cash and bonds. It is better, Byrd added, that we do no more talking about sacrifice in this connection.

Despite An Unbalanced Budget, Tax Cut Bills Flood Congress

By CONGRESSIONAL QUARTERLY

WASHINGTON

PROPOSALS for easing taxes are getting a lot of attention from Congress this year. But lawmakers may find their hands tied when it comes to carrying out the plans, because of the difficulty of balancing the Federal budget.

The tax-budget dilemma could erupt in a major legislative battle, centering around a plan to speed up scheduled income tax cuts.

A flood of bills to lighten taxes in dozens of ways were introduced when the new Republican-controlled Congress convened Jan. 3. About 200 tax bills piled up in the first month, according to a Congressional Quarterly tabulation.

One of the measures would move up to July 1 the starting date of a scheduled 10 per cent cut in income taxes. Another proposal, calling for a Constitutional amendment, would put a 25 per cent limit on income taxes, now at a top-bracket rate of 92 per cent for incomes over $200,000.

EISENHOWER STATEMENT

But a roadblock in the path of tax cuts is the Federal deficit, estimated at $9 billion for the coming fiscal year. President Eisenhower in his State of the Union message Feb. 2 said he wanted to reduce and revise taxes, but that a "reduction of taxes will be justified only as we show we can succeed in bringing the budget under control."

Republican leaders in both House and Senate agreed with the President's stand, but Chairman Daniel A. Reed (R-NY) of the House Ways and Means (taxation) Committee said he will push through his bill to cut income taxes. "We can pass my bill and balance the budget too," he declared.

According to estimates prepared by the Budget Bureau and given Congress Jan. 9 by outgoing President Truman, the government will spend $78.6 billion in the year starting July 1. It will take in only $68.7 billion allowing for automatic tax cuts now in the law.

A balanced budget will be even harder to achieve than it appears at a glance because Congress and the President can "work with" only part of the budget in finding places to cut. For example, about half of the $45.5 billion slated for defense spending is being committed to pay for such items as planes, tanks and guns previously ordered.

However, Rep. Richard M. Simpson (R-Pa.), a member of Reed's Committee, said after the Eisenhower message he was convinced that both a balanced budget and tax cuts could be achieved "immediately — at this session of Congress. The sound policies outlined by President Eisenhower are bound to bring economy in government."

Representative Reed has scheduled Feb. 16 as the day his Committee "definitely" will approve the tax bill. He predicted House passage before the end of February.

But Chairman Leo E. Allen (R-Ill.) of the House Rules Committee said only "it is safe to say the bill will not be sent to the floor for several months."

TAX CUT TIMETABLE

Meanwhile, unless Congress amends the Revenue Act of 1951, which imposed excess profits and expiration dates for the increases, taxes will return to previous levels according to this timetable:

June 30, 1953 — Excess-profits tax expires.

Nov. 1, 1953 — Tax on long-term capital gains drops from 26 per cent to 25 per cent for individuals, trusts and estates.

Jan. 1, 1954 — Individual income tax rates go back to former levels, dropping about 10 per cent.

April 1, 1954 — "Normal" income tax for corporations drops from 30 to 25 per cent. The 22 per cent surtax will stay the same.

Also effective April 1, 1954, the capital gains tax for corporations drops from 26 to 25 per cent, and excise taxes on alcoholic beverages, automobiles, cigarettes, gasoline and sporting goods return to pre-1951 levels.

Drew Pearson's Merry-Go-Round

Rebellion Seethes In Communist Countries

(Ed. Note—Drew Pearson is now on a trip to Berlin and Paris to check on crucial developments there and report on the progress of John Foster Dulles in unifying our Allies.)

BERLIN

THE MOST important question in the world today is what's happening behind the Iron Curtain?

What's the reason for the purges, the indirect attacks on certain Russian leaders, the wave of anti-Semitism, the flood of political refugees daily streaming across the border at Berlin? Upon the answer to this puzzle depends the answer to the question of peace or war and here in Berlin, the only place where there is a gap in the Iron Curtain, is the best place to get it.

My own diagnosis from talking to those who have been behind the Iron Curtain and to intelligence experts follows:

1. Some parts of the overexpanded Soviet Union are gorged from too much conquest and are on the brink of revolution today. Various other areas in the Soviet orbit are seething with unrest, and the Red leaders in the Kremlin need scapegoats. Hence the purges and the pogroms.

2. On the face of things, Russia is a long way from war and is in no position to wage it. However, dictators sometimes start war to divert attention from their own failures. That is the greatest danger in Europe today.

To understand what is happening in the Soviet Union you have to remember that there are only about 40 million Russians in the U.S.S.R. And the over-all policy of the Kremlin is to operate and to control the other parts of the Soviet zones—from Mongolia to Czechoslovakia and from Turkestan to Poland—for the sole benefit of these 40 million Russians.

The 'Crime' Of Nationalism

THUS, while the 40 millions around Moscow have never had it so good, the other diverse and nationally minded millions — who are expected to raise more crops, to build more factories, to lay more railroad lines and to support the Soviet war machine—are restless and rebellious. That is why a new word has been coined and added to the already long list of isms and for which one can now be tried for treason—nationalism. That ism was among the charges made against Vladimir Clementis and some of the other Czech leaders. They put Czechoslovakia ahead of the Soviet Union. Deputy Premier Rudolf Slansky, on the other hand, was convicted of leftism. He carried the doctrine of Communism too far to the left.

Today the greatest danger spot for revolt in the far-flung Soviet orbit is Poland. These peasants are seething over crop quotas and collective farms. The revolt in Poland reaches the point where sending poor seed to collective farms, for which nine state agricultural farm directors were found guilty, is just plain refusing to make grain deliveries.

Peasants have become so rebellious that Soviet officials even enlisted several hundred priests to encourage crop deliveries. Sabotage of Polish railroads continues and, in general, the nation is closer to emulating Tito's Yugoslavia than any other land ruled by the Reds. In fact, Allied observers are a little worried for fear that the Polish revolt might come prematurely and be stamped out so severely and ruthlessly that restlessness would be discouraged in other parts of the Soviet empire for years to come.

Other areas in which this restlessness is most apparent today are the Ukraine, Czechoslovakia, Georgia (the birthplace of Stalin), Armenia and Turkestan.

Russian Purges

IF YOU look back into Russian history it is fairly easy to see the reason for the current purges and the wave of anti-Semitism. Probably the worst campaign against the Jews took place in 1905 after the great Russian drought of that year when Prime Minister Sergei Whitte and Czar Alexander III scapegoats to blame for the widespread starvation.

Again it is important, to remember that in 1914 the Russian military, fearful of unrest at home, wanted war. That was why the Russian military attaches in Belgrade was in contact with the little gang of Serb assassins who bombed Archduke Franz Ferdinand at Sarajevo, thereby touching off World War I. That was also why Russian wasted hardly a minute before coming to Serbia's defense by declaring war against the Austro-Hungarian empire. Unrest was rampant in Russia and the little group of generals around the czar needed a war to keep their shaky empire together. That is the biggest danger inside Russia today.