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Ike Is Asking A Vote Of Confidence

IF Washington were Paris. Dwight Eisenhower might be out of a job. The French are impatient with governmental statements. When one governmental question of confidence is raised, the vote is taken, and the administration is either deposed or allowed to continue with the program that provoked the crisis.

has seemed to believe that if he asked for support, it would be given. This gentle view of politics has been thoroughly roused up. The Democrats, long fearful of attacking the President directly, now find plenty of precedent for such attacks in the President's own party.

THIS inability to whip his own party into line is attributed by Walter Lippman primarily to Mr. Eisenhower's unwillingness to "break the eggs that are needed for the omelette."

"He has hoped that the Republicans who did not share his views would have a change of heart, that his own sincerity and geniality would win them over. He has never been willing to do what practical political leaders have to do, which is to fill the posts of command with men who share their views, to defend and to reward their supporters, and to put out or put down their opponents."

"He has thought of himself as accomplishing his hopes for the Republican Party by standing above that party. From that eminence he would by the radiation of his popularity change the course of American political history. This image of the presidency has in fact done much to increase his personal popularity. He has kept aloof from the controversy which arouse opposition and cause unpopularity. But, though it has increased his popularity, it has diminished his influence. For men do not follow leaders who do not lead, and they do not care to be shot at while their commanders are appearing their foes."

But although the U. S. system doesn't provide for raising formal questions of confidence, events do raise them. The battle of the budget, which has stalled over the non-fiscal portions of the President's program, has raised the question of confidence in Mr. Eisenhower. It has compelled him to go to the people for support. The public's response to his coming television talks will, in effect, be a vote of confidence or no confidence on his assessment of the extent of the nation's obligations to the military work and economically under-developed nations of the world.

The question centers ultimately on foreign aid because the Congress is unwilling to make substantial reductions in domestic spending. It is unwilling to implement all the Hoover Commission recommendations. Foreign aid, as the President points out, is the only major spending program without a pressure group to defend it. Thus he must lobby for it, or watch the Congress apply the meak-xe to a program he obviously considers more essential to the nation's welfare than many of the domestic programs which Congress intends to continue.

SIX months ago, a question of confidence in Dwight Eisenhower's judgment would have seemed laughable. A landslide second only to Franklin D. Roosevelt in 1948 has just returned him to office. He was talking confidently of completing construction of a new Republicanism — "modern Republicanism" he called it. In his massive popularity, he had tremendous deposits of the raw material of power of leadership. The raw material, however, has not been developed. The President is popular, but he is not powerful. Far from rebuilding the Republican Party, he seems unable to command its support for his program. Indeed, it is doubtful that he has tried to command it. He

THE "confidence" question cannot be separated from Mr. Eisenhower's decision to the people. It must be decided now whether the voters wanted the President to lead the government, to serve as a friendly father figure. For events have forced him into a leadership role on the budget, and he cannot fill the role without the support of the people who elected him.

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Toward A New Era Of Safer Drivers

WHEN the chips were down, the Senate came through this week with a workable driver training bill. The final moments were tense but reason prevailed in the end.

The result: The most important contribution to the cause of traffic safety in a decade. House concurrence next week is considered certain.

Certainly this legislation will go down as one of the major accomplishments of the 1957 General Assembly.

By this time next year a new generation of safer drivers should be in the making throughout the state. At present, only 24 per cent of North Carolina's high schools offer driving instruction to 19 per cent of the eligible students.

The method of financing the program came under sharp attack in the Senate Thursday. But the \$1 charge to be

added to the cost of motor vehicle license plates, beginning with 1959 tags, is a bargain price for the good to be received. It is little enough to pay for the improvement in the design of Tar Heel drivers.

It is not just a matter of teaching a youngster how to shift gears, steer and use the brake. A good driver training program will make students want to drive safely, will give them the information they need to make wiser driving decisions, will teach them the inherent dangers of misuse of the motor vehicle and the sources which arouse opposition and cause unpopularity. But, though it has increased his popularity, it has diminished his influence. For men do not follow leaders who do not lead, and they do not care to be shot at while their commanders are appearing their foes."

Gov. Hodges, State Supr. of Public Instruction Charles F. Carroll and the Governor's Traffic Safety Council worked hard for this legislation. The victory was well worth their time and effort.

FACT VS. FICTION

ON HER first day in Robie Macaulay's writing class at Woman's College, Dora Betts told the Rotary Club recently the lesson got into the area of Fact vs. Fiction. Mr. Macaulay warned that the two seldom come to blend. He told a story which Mrs. Betts, who has a second book coming out, repeated. It went something like this:

A family from up North moved into an old house in South Carolina. While clearing a closet, a teenage daughter found on a shelf a photograph of a boy. Because the subject was extremely handsome, she kept the picture. She could not have forwarded it, for she did not know the name of the people who had occupied the old house or where they had moved.

Often the girl looked at the picture. She came to admire it more and more. Soon she developed the love for the boy she imagined — an unseen stranger. As time passed, the love deepened.

After several years, the girl and her family moved again, this time to a large city in the Midwest. Their new home was an apartment in a duplex house. As so often is the case among city dwellers they did not meet their neighbors — not even the people on the other side of their own walls.

During the family's second winter in the duplex house, a fire developed in the chimney. Workmen were called in to tear away the bricks and put in new ones. Inasmuch as the double fireplace was shared by the two apartments, an opening between them was created.

Of course members of the two families came to the open area to observe the progress of the work. And so it was

that the girl, standing one day at the dismantled chimney, looked into the face of the boy whose picture she had kept and whom she had loved for nearly five years.

As if by swift current, her feelings were transmitted to the boy. He went immediately to her. It was not long before they were married.

"That story was told by Mr. Macaulay," Mrs. Betts said, "with someone suggesting that in it he would find material for a book. The wonderful thing about it, the person said, 'is that every word of it is true.'"

"Mr. Macaulay said he felt a little stunned. But after a moment he answered, 'Well, it may be wonderful as a fact but it sure makes lousy fiction!'"

"The story brought quite a laugh from the Rotarians. I liked it, too. So that night at dinner I told it to my family. My daughter, who is a high school sophomore, did not laugh at all. Instead, she frowned."

"Heck," she said, "the reason the professor thought that was such lousy fiction is that he had heard it before."

"They have a story just like that on television every afternoon."

"Talk of a tax cut before January is premature," declares Virginia's Sen. Bird, ever vigilant against things too early — NEW ORLEANS STATES.

Science, like religion, should make men feel humble.—It teaches that the earth is only a second-class planet attached to the main star.—KNOXVILLE (TENN.) NEWS-SENTINEL.

Toughness In Traffic Control

North Carolina Saves Lives

By ROBERT C. RUARK

WILMINGTON AS A fellow with a firm aversion to being killed by a truck, I am particularly grateful to the State of North Carolina for its toughness in traffic control.

They are setting a lot of people on the highways here — a thousand last year, over 1,400 another year — because the broad highways are altering, and the drag racers combined with tourists and shuffling farmers in ancient heaps to compute a fantastic carnage on the weekends when the blended bores brought out the best. They got tired of messy highways and set about curing it with surgery.

HOW IT'S DONE

Here are some of the reasons you don't push your Cadillac or Thunderbird to its fullest humming capacity. The body traps wind in all sorts of ways. In the absence of sufficient patrol personnel, they just raise a police car on the side of the road, and the rushing driver assumes there's a cop handy, even though the car is only a decoy.

When they get a particularly gory wreck to play with, they park it prominently in a "zig-zag" — "Death Hangs Just Around the Corner." You'd be surprised at the

psychological effect on a man with a fancy two-tone when he sees such a particularly sordid collision can do to a brand new pink Buick. He slows down.

WHANNIES

There are things known as "whannies." They warn the driver that the speed is electrically excessive. This is just as effective as the radar-checked speed signs. There may be no radar check, but the driver doesn't know it when he sees a sign which says, "Don't Speed or You Might Help Grow My Garden." An "A" radar checks the speed of the motorist in terms of just how fast the

cop behind him is going and also shows the speeder's license plate simultaneously. There's a much argument against that gimmick. It is completely a police-state technique, but they have literally scared the speed of all drivers in this area. They have a thing called a "back" — eight or 10 police cars hitting a town at once, stopping everything in sight, in a show of force. Another is a periodic license check, where everything is halted before a road-block.

UNMARKED CARS

They also have pushed a bill past the legislature to allow the cops to use 20 per cent unmarked cars of various breeds. That may increase capacities, but it'd not be behind you, but also there might be a cop in it. No man's quite willing to bet that the driver of the faded-up all-purpose Dodge is a civilian when the odds are 20 per cent that he's a patrolman.

Every filling station you hit, the man says take it easy, the roads are stiff with cops. Every friend you meet says take it easy at the cocktail parties, they'll haul your license on drunk driving if they even smell one said Scotch on your breath. Every semi-trailer warns that it'll cost you \$2.50 if you crash a stop sign.

The highways are wonderfully,

under no obligation to permit these people to tap on to city water lines, so why not tell them to arrange to bring theirs and adjacent property into the city if they want city facilities and help to amortize several of these last water and sewer bond issues. Among these concerns, you will not find new enterprises, but long-established businesses which have seen the give-away tactics of the municipal administration and of their failure to protect the capital investment of city taxpayers in water works and sewer disposal facilities.

The administration, newspapers and Chamber of Commerce have sold the citizens of Charlotte a bill of goods on the last several bond issues to increase capacities of

water and sewer facilities. These increased capacities would not have been necessary if the policy of tapping on by free-loaders had not been followed.

The classic question put to persons trying to obtain signatures in the latest petition drive was: "We already have city water and sewer disposal facilities, why should we be anxious to pay city taxes for the privilege of having our garbage removed weekly?" It was awfully narrow of these individuals, but you have to be practical in this matter and the city has a lot to learn.

—W. F. DANIEL

People's City's Growth Hampered By 'Ruinous Policies'

Charlotte WE HAVE heard quite a bit of late about Rep. Jack Love and the danger he poses to the growth and well-being of Charlotte as regards the proposed extension of the city limits.

Please be advised this situation was not brought about by Mr. Love or the perimeter area residents but was occasioned by the ruinous policies of our city administration from mayor on down of permitting developers and individuals to tap on to city water and sewer lines at their convenience on a 20 - strings - attached basis.

The proper handling of this matter would be to tell these developers and individuals to bring their property into the city and

under no obligation to permit these people to tap on to city water lines, so why not tell them to arrange to bring theirs and adjacent property into the city if they want city facilities and help to amortize several of these last water and sewer bond issues. Among these concerns, you will not find new enterprises, but long-established businesses which have seen the give-away tactics of the municipal administration and of their failure to protect the capital investment of city taxpayers in water works and sewer disposal facilities.

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Citizens Proved Their Awareness Of Need

Charlotte Editors: The News.

I appreciate the of the Social Planning Council for the excellent way in which you carried the facts concerning the bond issue to expand Charlotte Memorial Hospital in your news columns and your editorial support of this important program.

The approval given the bond issue by the people on Thursday indicates they were made aware of the great need for the expansion of our hospital facilities. This is attributable, in no small part, to the excellent reporting and editorial support provided by the press.

The Social Planning Council is greatly interested in the plan to enlarge Memorial Hospital. It was the hospital survey conducted by the Council in 1954 which first pointed to the need and the expansion also will make possible the fulfillment of the recommendations of the Psychiatric Service survey conducted in 1956 in cooperation with the Eastern Lions Club.

The Eastern Lions deserve recognition for their continuing interest in mental health and for the way they pitched in and helped the Social Planning Council with its speakers bureau and film presentation concerning the hospital situation.

MARSHALL I. PICKENS Chairman, Social Planning Council

Last year I introduced cork oak into this area. This year I have planted hundreds of cork oaks in different parts of Chesterfield County. Cork trees will grow here as I have planted them and seen them grow. This tree is the same grand tree that gives us the cork for bottle tops, the same used in baseballs, cork inner-soles of shoes, savor belts, lifebuoys, and many other uses including filter tip cigarettes. Millions of dollars of cork is imported each year from Spain, Portugal, North Africa into the U.S. This raw cork is turned into billions of dollars of variety of finished goods.

Cork industry is a many billion dollar industry employing thousands of highly paid technicians in the processing of the valuable substance cork. Cork and its products will play an even greater part in the atomic progress of tomorrow. The natural resilient qualities of cork is unsurpassed, it will be duplicated and copied from the use of substitutes and Thomas Jefferson was the first American who attempted to introduce cork into the U.S. His efforts failed through his lack of knowledge of the perishability of the cork acorn in shipment to this country. Nonetheless he believed that cork could be grown here and he is right, even though he never lived to see it grow here.

—MARK A. BROWN

Art And Neurosis EVERYTHING great in the world comes from neurosis. They also have founded our religions and composed our masterpieces. Never will the world know all it owes to them nor all that they have suffered to create us. We enjoy lovely music, beautiful paintings, fine sand intellectual delicacies, but we have no idea of their cost: to those who invented them, a sleepless nights, tears, spasmodic laughter, rashes, asthma, and the fear of death, which is worse than all the rest. From "The Maxims of Marcel Proust," edited and translated by Justin O'Brien.

South Is Friendly To The Cork Tree McBee, S. C.

Editors: The News. MOST of our large nurseries are located in the North. Most of our fine Christmas trees are shipped here from the North. Yet the fact remains that trees can be raised three times as fast and over twice as cheap here in the southland of ours.

The South has fine possibilities for the raising of tree crops. In fact you can grow without too



Drew Pearson's Merry-Go-Round

WASHINGTON EZRA Taft Benson has run into trouble on his small farm on tree-growing. First he killed all government nurseries, now he is urging more money for nurseries. The trouble comes primarily from the fellow Republicans.

Shortly after he became secretary of Agriculture, Ezra junked all Department of Agriculture nurseries. He claimed he was not the job of the government to grow trees, and he turned the nurseries over to the states—even if the states didn't want them.

Giveaway

At Winona, Minn., Benson gave a thriving U.S. nursery to the state of Minnesota. The state proceeded to remove all trucks, tools, tractors, the overhead irrigation system and some of the best nursery stock. Then Minnesota abandoned the site.

Private Firm Profits

The site is now owned by the Winona Sand and Gravel Co., which purchased

Millions Pumped Into Tree Nurseries

the once-thriving U.S. government nursery for the bargain price of \$3,000. The price included a Butler Building valued at \$12,000, plus all irrigation equipment that could not be moved, including a pump, motor, etc., plus other minor buildings.

Now A Gravel Pit

In brief, the nursery which once grew thousands of trees is now a gravel pit. But three years later, when Secretary Benson started his soil bank plan, he suddenly discovered he would need trees.

About Face

So because it's too late to start U.S. nurseries and because he doesn't want to reverse himself that much, Benson is now pumping \$8 million of federal funds into state nurseries whether the states want the money or not.

Benson is giving the \$8 million in direct grants to the states, without any matching funds, a policy directly contrary to the Eisenhower policy of mak-

ing the states put up matching money for federal aid.

The Agriculture Appropriations subcommittee, discovering what Benson was doing, objected. They found that the grants were made by the secretary of agriculture himself.

"Why did you oppose such subsidies in 1955," asked Congressman Butte of Idaho, "yet now you have them in the budget?"

Is It Legal?

Congressman Jensen of Iowa also objected. He doubted whether the Agriculture Department had legal authority to subsidize state nurseries to sell trees at below cost to farmers.

Full Speed Ahead

The plan for U.S. funds for state nurseries is going ahead anyway, with the exception that only five million acres in trees under the soil bank plan. Actually farmers have signed contracts to plant only 7 per cent of that number in 1956-57. Since 1940

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President Eisenhower is holding up a special message he intended to send Congress until his advisers can make up their minds what to do about the Senate revelations on labor racketeering.

Ike is impatient to recommend strong legislation and has complained to the board that the Democrats are getting all the credit for cleaning up the unions. However, Secretary of Labor Mitchell has warned him not to recommend legislation that might be too drastic.

He still wants to send up a strong labor message condemning corruption and has ordered Attorney General Brownell to come up with some positive proposals.