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FRIDAY, JANUARY 3, 1958

Harsh Questions Confront Canny New Defense Boss

By MARQUIS CHILDS

WHILE it may be merely the psychology of the new broom figure in a long time has impressed Washington as the Secretary of Defense Neil H. McElroy.



NEIL H. McELROY
His Talk Is Tough

His appointment shortly before the resignation of Charles E. Wilson has created a definite bureaucratic tricklet of assistant secretaries, committees and consultants. This must be pruned and cut back if any decisions at all can be made.

6. Overhaul of the roles and missions of the services. Not since 1947 when the Joint Chiefs of Staff met in Key West with James Forrestal, then secretary of defense, has there been any revision of the roles and missions assigned to the three services. The decisions taken then are completely outmoded by the advent of rockets and missiles.

JOINT CHIEFS

7. Overhaul of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. This gets onto ticklish ground, both politically and militarily. Nothing has angered McElroy so much in his three months in the Defense Department as the continuing evidence of interservice rivalry with the Army, Navy and Air Force contending for control and operation of the new weapons.

NUCLEAR ARMS

2. Modernization of the Army with nuclear weapons. This has been authorized, but the new weapons have not been made available. If number of men are to be reduced, nuclear arms are even more imperative. The Soviets have made rapid progress in distributing such arms throughout their forces.

3. The Navy's aircraft carrier program. He stopped?

Many observers believe that the building of carriers, and the failure to build submarines in any like sufficient numbers, may prove to be the major blunder of the past five years, with both cast on to nuclear bombardment by Soviet subs.

aircraft industry and check unemployment in one community dependent on that segment.

6. Missiles for our allies. When will they be available and where will they be placed without causing too great a political ruckus?

5. Organization and functioning of the Department of Defense.

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On several occasions, McElroy has used violent language to rebuke service chiefs, but when it comes to doing something about the JCS, the new secretary will run up against powerful vested interests.

Each service has in Congress its own potent champions who will resist any important changes when the service chiefs come running to the back door to appeal for support.



'Think They'll Stand Still While We Catch Up?'

THE PEOPLE TO BE CHOSEN TO REPRESENT US AT OUR ALLIES' NOT AGAIN AS MR. STANSON, WHO IS A WISHLIFTHINKER AND HOPEFUL FOR MIRACLES TO HAPPEN.

I don't think that an professional politician or professional diplomat would do because the Russians have proven in the past that they are shrewder diplomats than ours and always outsmarted them. To avoid such occurrences and to eliminate the possibility for them to twist around our delegations in the manner the Russians are accustomed to, people of special caliber must be chosen.

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Education: A Time For Hard Truths

MILD as it is, the administration's four-year emergency program for education is a needed antidote to the sweet nothings of states' rights about the virtues of 100 per cent locally supported school.

In public education there is no dignity in deficiency. The nation's present predicament has brought this fact painfully to the fore.

Education is properly and essentially a local function. Control of its operation must remain in local hands as close as possible to the people most directly concerned. This is a basic American freedom. But that freedom need not be seriously impaired by introducing some equitable uniformities and minimum standards in the interest of common survival. If this means federal aid then federal aid it will have to be.

Secretary of Health, Education and Welfare Marion B. Folsom is to be commended for recognizing that the present critical situation requires the American people to improve the quality of their schools. The program he has advanced does not pretend to be the whole answer. It is simply one practical, realistic leg on the total solution geared to the demands of long-term national security. It would set up a system of grants to states to spur greater school activity, especially in the field of scientific training. It would also provide scholarships for talented students and funds

for colleges to expand facilities.

The plan is designed to strengthen and stimulate state and local programs, not to supplant them. Goodness knows it is not intended to wrench anything away from poor communities with poor schools. It is a program to assist, not deprive. In the long run the whole nation will be a little more secure.

There are those who are already saying that the program is too modest. They are right, of course. But they probably lack the political acumen of Mr. Folsom, who has already had one bruising experience with insubverting states' rights in Congress. He is willing to take half a loaf rather than no loaf at all. The legislation he is proposing is frankly designed to smother the attacks of those who fear a federal fingertip on education. For the moment at least, he is avoiding the matter of federal aid for school construction which has stirred up the segregation issue in the past.

Details of the program can and should be carefully scrutinized and discussed. It is possible that certain aspects can be judiciously beefed up without causing any horrified eye-rolling among hard-shelled conservatives. After all, this is not a plan to pretty up U. S. education. It is a program to help get it into good enough shape to insure our survival. It represents one way—repeat, one way—to bolster the nation's staying power in an age of peril.

More Victims For The Cross-Arms

THE LACK of warning facilities at the Seaboard Railway crossing on Sharon Amity Rd. where two Marines were killed this week is ridiculous.

There were no warning lights at all to show that the road was blocked by a freight train. Wooden stop signs posted 250 yards from the tracks are so weather-worn as to be unreadable. The cross-arms at the tracks are visible too late to the night traveler.

In the wake of the accident the old cry of railroad responsibility went up. The same cry was heard after six auto-train collisions occurred over a period of five years at the W. 5th St. crossing within the city. After some prodding by City Council, Southern finally in-

stalled lighted safety gates at that crossing.

Certainly the railroads are partially responsible for warning facilities. But it becomes a shared burden in the responsibility of city, county and state governments to see that the railroads live up to the responsibility.

This week's fatal accident should cause immediate installation of warning lights at the Sharon Amity crossing. It also should cause inspection of other crossings in the city and county and demands for proper warnings at those lacking them.

Cross-arms alone, even freshly painted ones, do not give sufficient warning.

Western Nations Need New Team Of Negotiators

People's Platform

Great Falls, S. C. Editors: The News.

THE MOST important topic for discussion at this time seems to be the Russian peace proposal. Many people believe that this is merely another propaganda trick, and others think that, even if an agreement with the Russians was reached, they would break it.

I agree with both these thoughts and may add another one—that the only agreement they will accept will have to be on their terms and no other. In spite of these three thoughts, a meeting is necessary at this time, and to satisfy ourselves as well as other countries it must take place.

Our President reported a week ago over the radio and television that everything in France at the summit conference was agreeable and that a unified understanding was reached. The only good thing that I could have judged that happened was his presence there. It must be admitted that his presence helped a lot but it can not be called a successful conference. It wasn't anything creative—just friendly talk.

All I could get out of the report to the people by the President in his few minutes was to gain prestige for Mr. Dulles.

Most of the NATO members, because of their present insecurity, would like such a meeting with the Russians. But who should

at this time represent us at our allies? Not again as Mr. Stanson, who is a wishful thinker and hopeful for miracles to happen.

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What's The Best Answer To Tyranny?

ALTHOUGH French government is far more stable than would appear from a rapid succession of cabinets and premiers it is not stable enough in times of ever-present peril.

Becoming premier of France is something like entering a revolving door and not being able to step out on the other side. Although the door brings some premiers back into office on a second tour, it allows none to stay for long on any one tour. The spinning door is powered by an ancient French fear of strong government, a fear that has been affected very little by the necessities of the nuclear age.

David Schoenbrun, CBS correspondent in Paris, remarked during a cabinet crisis some years ago that "this is no way to run a railroad but it is the way the French run this one." We wondered recently if Schoenbrun might have a fuller explanation. In a closed circuit preview of CBS' anti-Yankee program, he responded to the query we submitted thusly: "The French believe the best answer to tyranny is anarchy." The anarchy, of course, is not in ad-

ministration. Behind the game of musical chairs played by cabinets and premiers, an expert bureaucracy keeps the wheels of the state machinery in motion, with the powerful Parliament being able and often willing to change cabinets in any sort of a stream. A cabinet can be deposited on one issue through a "no confidence" vote of various parties whose real complaints against the government are based on unrelated issues.

The French currently are discussing ways and means of giving their government a longer lease on life. The results are not likely to achieve the stability associated with U. S. and British governments. Nor will it be wise for quiz show contestants to undertake to answer questions on France without first checking the late bulletins from Paris.

But perhaps the constant threat from the Soviet of imposition of foreign tyranny is beginning to moderate the unhealthy French fear of domestic tyranny. Meantime, Americans who become exasperated with the rudderless French might remember that Congress still has done nothing about the problem of presidential disability in the U. S.

A Thought For Things Underground

DEEP in a winter of assorted discontent there can be some pleasure in thinking of things under the ground.

The tulip is there, and the daffodil. They are, it can be said with liberal quantities of precious certainty, engaged in their own taken-for-granted miracles. They are fashioning perfume, sturdy stems and beautiful flowers from last spring's sunshine and this winter's water. They care not a whit for marvelous man's attention and do very well indeed without the aid of his fertilizers, poisons, soil conditioners, cultivators and devoted care.

If man is willing, there will be another spring with tulips and daffodils nodding in the breeze. Already in well-mulched gardens the green tips of the daffodils have come up from the cold earth as if they were born with some confidence that the ancient earth

will last longer still.

It's a pity in a way that natural miracles occupy less of man's concern than those such as Sputniks which he conceives to be of his very own creation. There might be a lot less progress but assuredly there would be a lot more peace.

We do not suggest a need for a generation of nature worshippers, but for resumption of a mood that man is capable of achieving in contemplation. Man, we mean looked at a daffodil and decided "this is beautiful." The daffodil man, no such claim. It carries nothing for man's concern. The daffodil is, and that is all.

But man believes it is beautiful, and who would deny it? Couldn't man maybe look at himself, declare it a peaceful and make himself and all his heirs believe it?

Atticus In The London Times

I TOLD Somerset Maugham recently that I admired his handwriting, and he said that the first rule was to write with a gold nib.

"I have a whole battery of good old-fashioned fountain pens," he said. "Many years ago a journalist asked me what was writing and I said 'Nothing, because my fountain pen has broken.' He grabbed off this piece of news. The next thing I knew, fountain pens started pouring in from manufacturers all over the

GOLD-NIBBED PEN

world, and since then I've had no excuse to stop writing."

"What are you writing now?" I asked.

"Nothing," said Mr. Maugham.

They say you can't measure a man's happiness by the money he has. It's the truth. A man with ten million dollars may be as unhappy as one who has only nine million.—LEXINGTON HERALD-LEADER.

Drew Pearson's Merry-Go-Round

WASHINGTON, S. C.

SEEN, Lyndon Johnson of Texas, who is conducting a leisurely probe of our missile status, should take a look at the President Eisenhower's own personal reports on our failure to educate scientists. Eisenhower knew about this danger long ago but procrastinated.

In fact, even as early as 1951, when Eisenhower was still president of Columbia University, his advisers pointed to the grave danger of American failure to educate scientists and technicians. As a result of this prompting from Columbia University advisers, the Ford Foundation gave a grant to establish the National Manpower Council at Columbia.

Ike Ignored Warnings Of Danger

WASHINGTON, S. C.

A vast reservoir of highly intelligent young people.

This report was presented to Eisenhower personally by James D. Zellerbach, the San Francisco paper mogul whose company is now under investigation for possible monopolistic practices. Zellerbach was then chairman of the Manpower Council. Zellerbach is a good friend of Eisenhower's, since then has been appointed U. S. ambassador to Italy. President and the recent author of the top-secret Gather Report now resting on Eisenhower's desk.

Effort Urged

WASHINGTON, S. C.

These two men warned Eisenhower that the United States today had only 155,000 scientists. Of this number, they said, only 15,000 were working on basic scientific research. They urged better institutions for teaching science and engineering, better opportunities for making sure that talented youngsters got college educations, better primary and high school education.

This report is now four years old. The recommendations were discussed at Cabinet level, and another committee was appointed. This was a committee of different departments of the government which in turn led to still another committee. This procedure of appointing different committees consumed a total of three years.

Nothing Done

However, despite the appointment of three committees between 1953 and 1956, President Eisenhower did absolutely nothing about encouraging scientific study until this week. In fact, just three months before Russia launched its two Sputniks, President Eisenhower turned his back on his own auto-education bill when the Democrats tried to pass it in Congress. It was defeated.

Blue Devils Should Have Stayed In Bed

Editors: The News.

THE game is over, and just why did the Atlantic Coast Conference and the press pick the Duke team to play the powerful Oklahoma Sooners?

It will never be known. I know there will be plenty of excuses from both the press and Duke, but remember that Oklahoma was a most powerful team last year and again this year—with only one loss in 1957, and none in 1956.

Dictionary Cited In Birthday Dispute

Editors: The News.

RECALL my brother, Parks R. A. Yandell, wrote an article in the Piedmont concerning a Christmas and the birth of Christ. In a later issue of The News his article was criticized by Mr. A. W. Black, Mr. Black was trying to prove through his seemingly superstitious knowledge of all facts that Dec. 25 was not the birthday of Christ.

The New Fink & Wagnalls Encyclopaedia states this about the

Sen. NORRIS Cotton on the budget-cutting lever in Congress. "The boys in the Senate, such as someone introduced the Ten Commandments, they would cut them down to eight."

Sen. A. S. (Mike) Monroney on the meaning of Sputnik 1 on the "vacuous 'beep, beep' (decoyed as it passed over the U. S. Capitol): 'I have been informed it was translated into this: 'Washington slept here.'"

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Lack Of Ministers Must Be Removed

Editors: The News.

I READ with much interest your article of Dec. 26, "Critical Shortage of Leaders Hampering Work of Religious Groups." It was unique and broad, even as it did practically every denomination in the community as well as the schools and colleges, all emphasizing the need necessary in preparing our young men for the military. This was such a wonderful article. I also enjoyed Shaford Peeler's article of comment which you carried Dec. 20.

Since this has been brought to the community in such a generous manner, I trust that all the good people of our city will join together today to offer themselves in service in any way they can to bring this matter to a reality.

May we realize that time waits on no man and also to remember that today is yesterday's tomorrow.—M. J. HENRY SR.

Quote, Unquote

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