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TUESDAY, DECEMBER 2, 1958

Fun Is Fun... But There Are Limits

HAVING already viewed bomb hoaxes with alarm, we are now prepared to go the second mile and demand a moratorium on arson.

Fun is fun and all that. It is also fairly well known and accepted that boys will be boys. But there are limits.

It should not be necessary to point out that the limits have been reached in Charlotte.

Fires have been deliberately set at local schools, dwellings and, perhaps, other buildings. Police say they were mostly the work of juveniles.

Banal nuggetries of the city's so-called "young primitives" pale beside these offenses. Most juvenile delinquents are mainly comic characters, with a touch of pathos. But what is to be said of a youngster who commits arson?

The maximum punishment for first degree arson—setting fire to a dwelling in which persons are asleep—is death. Sentences ranging from four months to ten years can be given by the courts in other types of arson. The harshness of the punishment is one indication of the

seriousness of the crime.

This isn't fun.

It isn't a prank.

It deserves sterner billing.

The front pages have already used the word "epidemic" to describe the uncomfortably large number of fires in some sections. That's about it, for there is a dangerous sickness in a society that permits perverted acts of this nature to be committed in the name of amusement.

Dr. Lawrence I. Stel of Trinity Presbyterian Church was absolutely correct Sunday in laying these outrages on the conscience of the community. It is indeed a shame that is shared.

We have heard, of others that the community ought to take a moderate view of these things. How "moderate" "moderation" has become lately! Perhaps it is the opinion of the "moderate" on this question that children ought not to set fire to too many schools. Extreme and unreasonable opinion would obviously demand that they burn none at all. We're extreme and unreasonable.

It's All A Question Of Who's In Charge

MUCH good can come out of the jurisdictional wrangle involving Mecklenburg's new juvenile diagnostic center.

The minor uproar has already impressed County Commissioners with the necessity of outlining areas of responsibilities and chains of command precisely. There has been no such delineation in juvenile affairs in the past. As a result, there is sharp disagreement between Juvenile and Domestic Relations Court Judge Willard I. Gatling and County Welfare Supt. Wallace Kuralt over supervisory rights.

Both Judge Gatling and Mr. Kuralt agree, however, that authority and duties in this new area of activity should be sharply drawn.

They are right. Mecklenburg is beginning an important new stage in its treatment of juveniles. The new diagnostic center represents a successful conclusion to a long, hard campaign. It is vital that it be put into operation at once. But it is more important that the system of operation be designed with the utmost care and general enlightenment.

It is an opportunity, too, for Commissioners to uncross the wires in the en-

tire field of juvenile work in Mecklenburg. The county cannot afford to have two agencies dabbling uncertainly in a single area of supervision and responsibility.

County Commissioners wisely delayed their final decision on supervision of the diagnostic center yesterday until they can study the matter further. They should be prepared by next Monday to render a comprehensive ruling.

Conservatism

TAR HEEL historians say Roanoke Island had its first English colony in 1585. A special writer in the Raleigh News & Observer supplies us with the following additional information: "As every student of American history knows, North Carolina was the birthplace of the first child of English parentage born in America. Her name was Virginia Dare and she was born on August 18, 1857, on Roanoke Island."

Well, we always heard the English were conservative in the matter of sex and now we know.

The Senator Will Prove Elusive Game

THOUGH scarcely one of the Senate's battle-pocked warhorses, Sen. Sam J. Ervin of North Carolina claims respect where his words and politics have made themselves felt. Ask the McCarthys; or ask Hoffa of the Senate.

Many a foe has fallen under a train of Tar Heel tales, liberally spiced with needing humor.

Neo-Confederate whooper-uppers of a "conservative coalition" in the next Congress called on Sen. Ervin the other day for his opinion of the scheme—which would have southern Democrats and conservative Republicans renounce their parties and join together.

"The Democratic Party," he retorted, "has always been good to the South and while the Democrats have been good to the South... the Republicans have done us the most harm."

As to the "conservative" party-bolt: "The people of North Carolina move slowly," Sen. Ervin told his questioner. "We didn't altogether like the federal Constitution until the Bill of Rights was added. We came into the Union too late to vote for George Washington the first time. We had some doubts about slavery within the southern Confederacy. We

signed up too late to vote for Jefferson Davis. We won't be in any hurry to join the conservative coalition."

So has Sen. Ervin declared himself, with fellow Tar Heels elusive game for the party-bolters—in words of a good party man, a good Tar Heel and, for that matter, of a good "conservative." In this boring era of the politics of togetherness, where it is often considered offensive to be anywhere but on the fence, the words of a good party man are bracing.

Public officials of Sen. Ervin's turn of mind, though they irritate the get-hot boys of both sides of the party fence, keep inertia and stultifying solidity out of the system. Each party enjoys better health when it hammers its work out of members of all political hues; they would both be ill-served by the "conservative coalition" Dixiecrat nostalgics are trying to rig up.

You can start walling disaster on the day when either party becomes an iron-bound barrel of sweet unity—and especially when "liberals" confront "conservatives" across a man's land barren of the horse-trading which has for so long propelled American politics.

EVERY CONVENIENCE FOR THE STUDENT

ONE of these days, it might have been supposed, even so remarkable a State as Texas would run out of fresh occasions for public amazement, but that day, it is pleasant to report, is not yet at hand. The late Republic, which in other years has produced the world's only solid gold bar rail, the nation's largest ranch, the hemisphere's tallest TV tower and the planet's biggest school of law, now offers for the admiration of mankind the first, and doubtless the only, do-it-yourself effigy pit.

This handy facility, we learn from the Associated Press, was dedicated this past Friday at Texas Tech College in Lubock. It is intended to put an end to the inconvenience that is suffered by students who wish to burn in effigy a dean, a president, or a coach and have no proper place in which to perform these mystic rites.

For the student who otherwise might be thought to have everything, Texas Tech now has provided a \$5,000 pit, circular in shape, tastefully fitted out with "a masonry patio adorned with the elements of eight Southwest Athletic Conference members as a part of the design." When the students are not burning deans, presidents and coaches, we may suppose that whole steers will be barbecued therein.

It is true, perhaps, that dedication

of an official effigy pit removes from campus life some element of spontaneity. One might as well set aside the hours of 8 to 10 on Tuesdays for official rioting, or provide for an official editorial in the student newspaper, officially denouncing the administration every Monday, Wednesday and Friday. A thoughtful college president, eager to provide every convenience for his students, might even draft official forms for student protest, leaving only blanks to be filled in as occasions of undergraduate uproar might arise.

But regimentation is the order of this New Day we hear so much about, and the Texas Tech steers, after a few un-reconstructed independents have been suppressed, shortly will be conducting their confagurations in the effigy pit, pursuant to the Texas fire laws and in accordance with regulations posted on the patio. "Two steers, thus. So do our liberties, like straw trim, go up in smoke."

Only one refinement remains. The next facility to be standardized for the modern educational institution, or even for the most venerable educational institution, should be an official pit for hanging a few students. An endowment fund for such a purpose, we may surmise, would be oversubscribed in 24 hours by deans, presidents and coaches we have known.

They Fret About Boom And Bust Down Mexico Way

By MARQUIS CHILDS

THE dimensions of the task facing Mexico's new President, Adolfo Lopez Mateos, are not essentially different from the problems of the job confronting any one of a number of newly elected governors in the United States.

One word sums up most of the troubles—and they are grave indeed—that Mateos must try to master: Inflation.

The rising cost of the services government provides, plus an ever increasing number of services, an empty treasury and the menacing spiral of rising living costs—these are the elements of the problem with which the studious new President must grapple. But they are far more acute here than they are north of the border. While living costs rose something like 6 per cent in the first six years of the Eisenhower administration, they have gone up here about 40 per cent in the same time.

FANTASTIC CHANGES

Mexico has had a tremendous boom. It is evidenced in this extraordinary year which is passing the 4,000,000 mark in population, moving into the top 10 of the world's cities. To one who had not been here in 20 years, the changes are fantastic—the great glass and steel skyscrapers, the broad avenues, the unending traffic.

This is altogether another Mexico from that simpler era of two decades ago when the country still lived for the most part in the feudal past. Taking office for a term of six years to which he cannot be re-elected, Mateos inherits a dilemma that his predecessor, Ruiz Cortinez, managed to escape, but only by a narrow margin.



Great Glass And Steel Skyscrapers Are Symbols Of New Era Of Progress

The new President must make some really tough decisions or accept a continuing inflation that threatens both the government and the economy. He must raise taxes and at the same time scale back the inflated bureaucracies of Pemex, the government petroleum corporation that took over the expropriated properties of the private oil companies and the state-owned railways. But to take these steps will certainly alienate important elements that have supported a middle-of-the-road course for the past 18 years.

Not can Mateos ignore the swollen cost of the military service. Since under Mexican law no high-ranking officer ever retired, they all continue to draw full pay and emoluments. During the riots this past August the Army was completely loyal to the government and played an important part in stopping disorders touched off by an increase in bus fares. Knowledgeable observers here believe that if the Army had wavered, the government might have been overthrown and a dictatorship installed. So for the new President to tamper with the privileges of the military would plainly endanger a delicate balance.

There have been other danger signs. In July the Communist-dominated Federation of Trade Unions, under the direction of Vicente Lombardo Toledano, captured the Railway Workers Union, one of the largest in the country. An avowed Communist, Demetrio Vallejo Martinez, was put in as its head. The rail workers here believe that if the government raised their pay 15 cents, which was considered insufficient, The Electrical Workers Union also has elected a Communist, Augustin Sanchez Delini, as president.

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These are large straws in the inflationary wind. The bitter squeeze between wages, which always lag behind swiftly spiraling prices, can give the Communist-dominated left, greatly emboldened during the boom, a new and a real opportunity.

Mateos is given high marks by almost everyone as an honest man of noble intentions. His election campaign, conducted under Mexico's one-party system, is said to have been the first in history in which attacks on the United States did not figure. Mateos expressed an earnest desire to continue the good relationship that has long prevailed.

U.S. PRESIDENTIAL

The pressure is great, and not alone from the left. In his three-hour talk at Acapulco with Sen. Lyndon B. Johnson, Mateos stressed, as he had done in his campaign, the need for greater United States capital investment, both governmental and private.

The two men, both of them having backgrounds of hardship and even poverty in the Southwest, got along very well. But whether the United States can continue to pour dollars into Mexico when inflation threatens more and more to erode their usefulness is a larger question, and only the new President can answer it.

If he insists demands to devalue the peso, which will mean more inflation, and if he takes the hard steps that are essential, then the investment boom and one-party government of the center will continue and there is high hope for the future.

In more ways than one this inauguration is a turning point. It may be possible for very much longer to coast. Out of the complex heritage of the past have arisen insistent demands that cannot be ignored.

People's Virginia's Governor Is 93 Years Behind Times

Charlotte, N.C. — The genteel action of the governor of Virginia in his treatment of Old Glory should be resented by every citizen.

I am surprised that the Veterans of Foreign Wars, the American Legion, and other groups have not gone into action before this.

The governor should be shown the Marine Memorial depicting the raising of the flag at Iwo Jima and reminded that these fellows, and thousands of others, were fighting for the United States, which includes Virginia. The governor of Virginia is 93 years behind the times.

—WILLIAM M. BROOKS

nice cats and several are pretty—lots of Persian showing in them." —Mrs. Bevil Coker, 182 Saluda St., Chester, S. C.

The letter speaks for itself. I can add only that there are probably about 30 cats and kittens and that some of them are completely Persian in appearance.

I hope that there are enough people fond of elderly ladies, cats,

or both to relieve this situation, and that the valiant lady whose name appears above and her ill sister will not suffer the added distress of having to abandon the pets they love to the doubtful assistance of an animal shelter or to an inhospitable and wintry countryside.

Longstanding membership in a low-income group prevents my

adopting all unwanted animals, and bachelors, but happily-married couples, with several well-behaved children.

I can safely guarantee to procure a cat or kitten, free, for anyone who will drop a line to Post Exchange, Rt. 3, Box 127, Charlotte, N. C.

—Name Withheld By Request

Whites Should Have Gone To Negro Hotel

Newark, N. J. Editors, The News:

I HAVE been reading in the newspaper that the manager of the Boston Celtics basketball team feels offended because some of his players were refused admittance to a strictly white hotel in your city and they had to go to a colored hotel there.

Well, in a situation like that the manager of the team should insist that the white players of the team go to the colored hotel to be together with their teammates. That would be the proper thing to do for people who make money practicing integration.

—GEORGE MERIT

'About Thirty' Cats Need Good Homes

Rt. 3, Charlotte Editors, The News:

I HOPE you can find space to print this excerpt from a letter I have just received: "Do you know if there is an animal shelter in Charlotte? And will they take our cats and find them a home? I skipped a disk in my back in October and have been on the ailing list since. Looking out for my 87-year-old sick sister and the cats is too much for me to do with this disk thing. I don't want to turn them out on a country road and I don't want to give them for their own good."

Not all are Persian, but all are descendants of "Black Mama," who is all Persian. They are from young cats to grown cats, all are



Drew Pearson's Merry-Go-Round

WASHINGTON SEN. Albert Gore, the Tennessee Democrat, is red-faced over the fact that his sister is under investigation in the Senate for a \$80,000 mortgage. A postal inspector has been called in to probe the deficiency.

Mrs. Grace Keyes, the senator's sister, told the reporter that she had paid \$60 on the desk of Oscar Lolis, chief clerk, in payment for stamps, but Lolis said he can't remember her doing it, though he doesn't question her word. At any rate the money has vanished.

Despite the small amount, any tampering with the funds is a federal offense, and the culprit can be sent to jail. While no one really thinks the senator was responsible, people are wondering why she has a job in the Senate Post Office in the first place. She is not a particularly efficient worker. Besides her senatorial brother, has one of the prize Black Angus herds in the nation and is not overly strict.

Man Behind The Trib

"Bronze" Reid, editor of the news paper journal owned by his family, is now

Senator Gore's Sister Probed In Theft

ing out of the New York Herald Tribune this week. He has been offered three different jobs by the Eisenhower administration and will take one of them.

The man who found the salvaging angel for the "Trib," Tex McCrary, is also bowing out. McCrary, who got plenty of publicity during the Sherman Adams-Goldfine battle, did a terrific job behind the scenes of finding two standby angels for the financially faltering Trib. One was a Democrat. Finally, McCrary, old wartime friend, Ambassador John Hay Whitney, moved in and put up the cash to carry one of the most historic Republican papers in the East.

Nixon's Disengagement

Vice President Nixon has been going through what the diplomats call "disengagement." Political observers, who are more blunt, call it "disenchantment," while some of the politicians, who are even blunter, call it "disenchantment."

moving away from Eisenhower. It's not a one-way operation, however. He is also moving away from Dick, and some of the boys at the White House are quite bitter toward the vice president. They aren't saying much, but here is the evidence, some minor, some important:

Minor Evidence

When the President left for Augusta, he took on his plane George Champion, president of the Cabinet and National Security Council, controlled by the Rockefeller family, with David Rockefeller as head of its finance committee. Champion was Ike's golfing companion in Augusta.

Major Evidence

There is no indication that Nixon called at the White House to say goodbye or for instructions for his important trip to London just before he left for Augusta. The White House, when queried, refused to confirm or deny this. Nixon did not attend the last meeting of the Cabinet and the National Security Council before he flew to London. Instead his office issued a statement that the Committee on Government Contracts was meeting and Nixon, who is head of

The News Is Praised By Salisbury

Salisbury Editors, The News:

MANY people in this town appreciate the kind of newspaper that you put out. Your editors are forward-looking and some of them sound statesmanlike. Your front page shows much artistic arrangement and makes a joy for the reader. The second half of your paper, devoted to state and local news, has items that you can find in no other place. Your funnies are so arranged as to give them their biggest appeal. May you have a better paper next year than you have had before.

—J. W. JEWELL

More And More

The above evidence, wrapped together with Nixon's long-distance phone conversations in October forcing Dulles and Eisenhower to reverse their stand against criticizing Democrats on foreign policy, spells more and more "disengagement."

The "disengagement" is based chiefly on the fact that Nixon has been tied to an administration which has taken the worst beating in an off-year election that anyone can remember.