

TUESDAY, APRIL 27, 1954

**The Issues In The McCarthy Hearing**

There is some validity to the complaint of Sen. McCarthy and his supporters that the current hearings on his wrangle with the Army are a wasting time that could more profitably be devoted to other things.

Herb's cartoon yesterday pointed out one aspect—the growing backlog of important legislation before the Senate. Moreover, high Defense Department officials are being diverted from the critical Indochina problem. And perhaps most important of all, the attention of the American people is riveted on the televised hearings when they had best be thinking of some of the other great issues of the day.

But granting all that, the McCarthy-Army hearing is serving a purpose that, in the long run, may have an equal or greater bearing on the preservation of the American system than the delay of legislation, the diversion of Defense officials, and the distraction of the high school student-warrior. That purpose is to lay bare the objectives of a power-loving demagogue, to expose the trickery, the deceit and the oiliness of his methods, and to reveal his willingness to trample upon people

and institutions in his drive for political authority.

The issue in the current hearing is not John W. Adams, as McCarthy has said repeatedly. The issue is larger than that, and it includes two questions:

1. The first question is whether any member of the U. S. Congress should be permitted to wide a latitude by his colleagues that he can subject individuals in the executive branch to abuse when they do not perform like puppets at his command.

2. The second question is whether Congress as a branch of government should be permitted to encroach upon the authority of the executive branch to the point of dictating policies and practices clearly within the executive department's sphere of responsibility.

It is nothing short of tragic that the U. S. Senate has delayed so long in considering any restraints upon the "shell slicker from Appleton," as Bishop Shell of Chicago called him. But the delay will not have been in vain if this hearing exposes McCarthyism for what it is and results in safeguards against the use of congressional authority as a springboard for future demagogues.



"I still don't think that's the way to deal with the McCarthy problem."

**Sterner Traffic Sentences Needed**

ALMOST every day the papers carry several items about traffic violations. Mr. Averne Reader notes them, perhaps muttering that some chronic violator got off too light, then forgets about the matter.

But he won't forget, he can't forget, if he keeps a record of these cases and analyzes them. For the record will be filled with cases like this:

"A six-year-old boy playing 'cowboy' was killed under the wheels of a two-ton truck... yesterday evening. The driver of the truck—an 18-year-old high school student—was charged with manslaughter and operating a motor vehicle without a license."

"A young man described by police as an inveterate traffic offender was held under \$1,500 bond today on a charge of manslaughter. The young man has been in and out of court on traffic violations numerous times since he was 15 years of age... Bruce Blackman (his was) charged with assault with a deadly weapon, reckless driving, driving without lights, speeding, driving after revocation of license... drunk driving... hit and run."

"Judge Max Busby levied fines of \$530 for driving drunk and \$350 for driving after revocation of license against William B. Helms, 28, of Salisbury, upon his third offense on both charges."

"Mrs. Eloise Pritchard was sentenced to 30 days in jail, (for hit and run driving), suspended on payment of \$10 and costs, and was fined \$25 and costs for operating an automobile without a license."

"A 23-year-old Charlotte barber—who had only yesterday been convicted of driving after his license was revoked—was back in County Recorder's Court today, charged again with driving after

**Too Many Drivers Are Not Licensed**

his license had been revoked and with drunken driving. Judge J. Ed Stokes told Benjamin W. Prevatte, 1508 Winston Drive, that if he should come up in court again on a similar charge, he would be sent to the roads."

These typical cases are sufficient to illustrate our points, which are:

(1) An alarming number of North Carolinians who figure in traffic accidents are not licensed to drive—or have been specifically ordered not to drive, and

(2) The courts are dangerously lenient with the chronic offenders.

The North Carolina Institute of Government has said that as many as two hundred thousand North Carolina drivers may be unlicensed. Many of these drivers don't have a license because they cannot qualify for one. Judges are permitted to sentence unlicensed drivers to as much as six months in prison, plus a fine. But, time after time, one reads that the violator gets the minimum fine, \$25.

A person convicted of driving after revocation of license may be fined as little as \$200, or sentenced to as much as two years in prison and fined as well. Here, too, the practice is to let the offender off lightly. In the Helms case referred to above, the offender got off with fines despite his third conviction on serious charges. And, as readers of this page well know, the Blackman and Prevatte records are appalling examples of leniency with chronic offenders.

Harsher minimum penalties would help keep unlicensed drivers off the highways. But a change in the law isn't the answer. What is needed is a sterner administration of existing law by the judges so that drivers who habitually endanger lives and sometimes kill, will be kept off the highways.

—VERN FRESMAN

**Floyd I. Harper --- Mr. AA**

IT IS A general rule of our society that the good works of a man come to the attention of the public, even though he may not seek credit and indeed may try to avoid it.

But with all our rules, there are exceptions. And one of those exceptions is both natural and necessary to the success of the work. For if members of Alcoholics Anonymous should overcome their anonymity, the great assignment they have undertaken would become difficult, if not impossible, of accomplishment.

So it is that to the community in general, Floyd I. Harper was an enterprising and successful businessman, a faithful husband and father, a loyal churchman, and an active participant in civic and social welfare organizations.

But Floyd Harper was more than that—much more. One of the first members of Alcoholics Anonymous in this region, he had spent more than eight years in dedicated and devoted duty to the cause of rescuing alcoholics from their mental in forming the first AA chapter and each of the succeeding chapters in

this community, in organizing the Twelve Steps Service Club, in founding Wilmoth Hospital, in directing the North Carolina Committee of the General Service Conference.

There were no limits to his earnestness, his zeal, or his patience. Though AA learned early in its history that a certain percentage of alcoholics could never be reclaimed, Floyd Harper refused to give up on any man, spending much of his time and money on alcoholics whom his associates wrote off as hopeless.

In life, Floyd Harper's work for alcoholics was done anonymously; in death it can be told. His life was a complete refutation of Shakespeare's famed comment:

"The evil that men do lives after them. The good is oft interred with their bones."

For the good that Floyd Harper did lives after him in the countless men and women he rescued from the darkness of alcoholism and restored to the normal, happy, productive and satisfying life he found for himself through AA.

From The Asheville Citizen

**'BOON', EH?**

"A NEW BOON for mankind!" is what they're calling the "noise absorber," an electronic device developed by the Radio Corporation of America. Hitched to your home or office, it sets up counteracting sound waves which dull the noise of machines, airplanes, air conditioning equipment, humans, and even animals.

We don't know about the "boon" on some enchanted evenings there's nothing so romantic as the ghostly call of the whippoorwill. Who would counter-voice the baby's wailing (not its wailing which specifies from the wall) that the little chap is breathing life and that home sweet home has its special

dimension of fullness? As for the office, we want no "noise absorber" on pay day as the well remembered and long awaited footsteps approach, down the hall, from the accounting office, bearing gifts "Boon?" Come again!

As the merchant down the block said, all this gloom and doom talk is just trying the wind out of our sails.—ASHEVILLE (N. C.) CITIZEN.

If Kansas dust storms are followed by a grasshopper invasion this summer, that state will be back to normal.—LAUREL (MISS.) LEADER-CALL.

**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 Editor. The News reserves the right to condense.

**Too Many Drivers Are Not Licensed**

Charlotte

I know you have noticed the several wrecks reported recently in the paper where the driver was without a license to operate a vehicle on the highways.

Two of them resulted in deaths for which no amount of posting of bonds for future trouble can compensate. In each case the driver has been able to get plates for his car without showing a license to drive or receipt for insurance.

So long as we compromise for anything less than a rigid law whereby it will be unlawful to operate or obtain license plates for a car without proving responsibility to operate same by having insurance and a driver's license, we shall witness a continuation of this carnage.

It seems to me that all the papers in the state should advocate such laws as forcefully as their columns will permit, because our courts are making it too easy for people to escape the responsibility for their acts.

A driver convicted of drunk driving, charged with his third time should have his driver's license revoked, his car plates impounded and his insurance company notified of this action. When the terms of his conviction are complied with, he would then have to get a driver's license, which should bear a code record on it, and insurance, before his plates could be returned to him or he could get new ones. The law should also make the owner of a car personally responsible for the acts of anyone operating his car except by theft of automobile.

—E. J. PRESSER

(Note: In fairness to Judge Sedberry, who is a candidate for political office, The News gave him a chance to reply to the above letter. His reply follows, Eds. The News.)

**Recorder Answers Presser Criticism**

Charlotte

A COLORED woman, whose name I do not recall, was charged with stealing and with receiving stolen goods. She pleaded guilty to the charge of stealing and was found guilty of resisting arrest.

During the trial, the judge, in this woman's attorney asked the police officer four times whether or not he had struck the woman

with a blackjack. Each time the witness answered that he did not strike the woman with a blackjack, but only with his fist, after she had taken off her shoe and beat him in the face and about the head until he was cut, bruised and bloody, evidence of which were all over his face and head at time of the trial.

The police officer testified that he used only such reasonable force as was necessary to make the arrest, and when the attorney for the woman asked about the blackjack for the fifth time, I told him that the officer had already testified several times that he did not use a blackjack, and then I made the comment that "It is a wonder he did not use this blackjack, I want to commend him for the great restraint that he exercised."

I have no apology to make for this comment. Any lawyer who has sufficient intelligence to be able to bring a case against an officer puts himself in defiance of lawful authority, and begins to physically abuse an officer. It is the duty of the officer not to retreat but to stand his ground and in order to save himself from great bodily harm, he has the right even to take life.

If any one Republican politician in his zeal for the incumbent Republican congressman from the 10th District, feels that he can gain anything for his candidacy by attacking my record as Judge of the City Recorder's Court, in his calculation he is not law-abiding, upright and honorable man and women in the City of Charlotte and in Mecklenburg County.

—J. C. SEDBERRY

**Quote, Unquote**

President Eisenhower says retaliation must be swift if America ever is suddenly attacked in the near future. He says it must be faster than Congress can debate a declaration of war.—New Orleans States.

Judge: "You're charged with beating your wife for the second time this month. Liqueur again?" Prisoner: "No, your honor. She kicked me this time."—Carlsbad (N.M.) Current-Argus.

**Drew Pearson's Merry-Go-Round**

WASHINGTON

President Eisenhower tried to do a quiet favor for the railroads the other day which backfired.

A delegation of railroad presidents came to the White House and asked him to do something about the "timelag" bill, a proposal to force the Interstate Commerce Commission to act on rate increases within 60 days.

The man who did most of the talking was personable Bill Farley, head of the American Association of Railroaders, one of the ablest business representatives in Washington and a golfing friend of the President's. Farley made some common-sense arguments that appealed to Eisenhower regarding delays in the ICC on rate increases. Wage increases are frequently granted well before the Commission grants rate increases, and it was argued that the ICC should speed up its work.

So Ike seemed to use his influence on Capitol Hill to get the timelag bill through the Senate, and promptly phoned GOP Senate Leader Bill Knowland of California.

**Army Vs. McCarthy**

WASHINGTON

Sen. McCarthy's chief advocate inside the Eisenhower administration, Postmaster General Art Summerfield, tried to make a last-minute deal to head off the Army-McCarthy showdown. Summerfield warned his Cabinet colleague, Secretary of Defense Charles Wilson, that McCarthy was preparing to blast Assistant Secretary Struve Hensel, McCarthy would "forget" the charges against Hensel, Summerfield said, if Wilson would call off the Army-McCarthy hearings.

But McCarthy's compromise move failed. Wilson found that the Internal Revenue Bureau had already investigated the same charges and had given Hensel a clean bill. Before McCarthy's broadside at Hensel, the Navy had launched an undercover campaign to promote him as Wilson's eventual successor.

Senators are outraged over the tactics of McCarthy's private gumshoes, Don

**Bricker Holds Up Ike-Backed Measure**

WASHINGTON

Bricker did this despite the fact that the Bricker law firm is paid a retainer by the Pennsylvania Railroad of around \$35,000 to \$40,000 annually, and despite the fact that he has done various favors for the railroads in the past. Hatred of Ike, it was all too evident, had surpassed the interests of his law firm.

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**Eisenhower Is A Principal In M'Carthy-Army Struggle**

By JOSEPH & STEWART ALSOP

WASHINGTON

IN the McCarthy-Army battle, six persons have been named as "principals"—McCarthy, Garrison, Cohn, Stevens, Adams and Hensel. In reality, there is a seventh principal—President Dwight D. Eisenhower.

For the President has as great a stake as any man in the outcome of this battle over a mere Army private. Indeed, the outcome may determine whether Eisenhower is to be the real leader of his party; whether his Presidency will be written down as a success or a failure; even whether the institution of the Presidency itself may be damaged beyond repair.

First of all, although in some ways he seems so aloof from the battle, he is anything but indifferent to what is going on. According to friends and acquaintances who have seen him over the past few weeks, he has developed almost an obsession about McCarthy. He is very likely to introduce the Wisconsin Senator's name into the conversation himself—and once the subject has been brought up, it is often difficult to change it, so strongly does the President feel about it.

Second, it can be stated on un doubted authority that the President has no illusions about the threat to his own leadership posed by McCarthy. The significance of the fact that McCarthy chose to launch a frontal attack on the Army, where the Eisenhower career was built, is not lost on the President. Nor are McCarthy's sneering references to "Pentagon politicians," and "the high brass." In short, the President is quite aware that McCarthy is likely to attack him directly, as some of McCarthy feel himself strong enough to do.

Third, he knows so, it may seem strange that the President has not himself taken the offensive, in the best military tradition. The fact is that he has very seriously considered doing so. With old friends, he has discussed a project for one or more broadcasts defining the real nature of McCarthyism, and naming the Wisconsin Senator by name. He has been persuaded not to do so at the present, on the grounds that such a course would endanger his program. It came to an open and irreconcilable break between McCarthy and the President—so runs the McCarthy line. Eisenhower would lose four or five pro-McCarthy votes for his program in the Senate, and more in the House.

Whether this assumes the form or not, the President, who feels "Constitutional responsibilities,"

is not going to let most citizens, Eisenhower had only a rather vague and general notion of the functions and of prerogatives of the Presidency. Since the start of the Bricker amendment fight, an especially since the McCarthy case, he has become fascinated by the subject. He has recently taken to reading "The Federalist Papers" and he has never read before, and with his remarkable memory, he now quotes or paraphrases them in his newspaper columns, at almost excessive length.

In short, the Bricker amendment fight has first made the President thoroughly aware of his Constitutional position; while the far more important challenge to his authority has made him determined to defend it.

**Geneva Talks Another Sign Of Mess The World's In**

By JAMES MARLOW

WASHINGTON

If anyone wants to know the state of the world midway in the 20th century, all he has to do is look at the Geneva ministers' conference just getting under way in Geneva. It's a mess.

There is even less hope for peaceful solutions than there was in the Big Four foreign ministers met in Berlin in January. And there were no solutions at Berlin.

At Geneva the foreign ministers of 19 countries, including the United States' Secretary of State, Dulles, are to talk about peace in Europe, where there's a truce, and war in Indochina, where there's war and no truce.

If the truth were known, Dulles probably wishes he was somewhere else. He's in a bit of a box before the meeting starts. Russia and Red China are there. It's possible they might make some concessions in return for giving Red China a seat in the United Nations and for American recognition of the Communists as the legitimate government of China.

But Dulles has pretty well shut the door on any deal along those lines by stating this country's opposition to recognition of a U. N. seat for the Red Chinese.

The United States wants Red China to be a member of the United Nations. Korea is united. This would mean letting North and South Koreans vote, in free elections. For the government they would choose. It would mean recognizing the North Koreans 41, would win.

But South Korea is an American ally. If China agreed to this arrangement, it would be handing all Korea over to the Allied side. Withdrawal by the Viet Minh, led by Communist Ho Chi Minh, would mean the French in Indochina. That would result eventually, or it should, in victory for the French.

The Red Chinese fought almost three years in North Korea to keep it out of the hands of the West and to occupy it, under the truce occupying it. It's unthinkable they would let North Korea slip into the Allied camp. The Communists, Chinese and the French in Indochina in a single instance yielded a lot of ground they took since World War II. So they're not likely to start now.

**Nehru's Trip**

Prime Minister Nehru has sent word to Secretary Dulles that the Chinese Communists are ready to sacrifice the Indochina Reds for the sake of peace in the Far East.

Nehru has told the American embassy he believes the Chinese Reds will agree to a truce which would carry the United States and scientists estimate it could devastate a wide area from California to the East coast. The United States is alarmed over the cobalt smuggling.