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Neil McElroy's Early Exit Is 'Against National Interest'

By WALTER LIPPMANN

THE news that Secretary McElroy may be resigning in a few months raises a serious question about the prevailing standards of public service.

COMPLEX JOB

For this limited period of service was just about long enough to enable Mr. McElroy to begin

to learn to be secretary of defense. He is a bright and intelligent man, but when he took office he had had no background of experience in the military establishment and no important experience in public life.

Eighteen months are perhaps enough for a reasonably good introduction to the work of the secretary of defense. Mr. McElroy's recent testimony before the congressional committee showed, while he has learned many lessons, that he is far from having mastered the job.

TASK TAKEN LIGHTLY

Now with the problem of American armed power at the center of the world situation, Mr. McElroy is looking forward to leaving in order to go back home and make more money. A successor must be found who can think forward to about 18 months of office before he goes home.

All this adds up to the fact that with so much at stake a very serious office had been treated seriously enough. This is against the national interest which requires a highly competent secretary of defense, and it is a bad example of how the public service should be valued by our people.

Broadly speaking, there are two kinds of opinion as to how the highest offices of the government should be recruited. There are those who believe that for the most part—although there are exceptions—there should be no great difference between public and private life, and that experience in business is not really different from experience in government.



SECRETARY McELROY A Poor Example

exception of Secretary Dulles, who has combined a lifetime of public service with a highly successful law practice. President Eisenhower has shown a predilection for successful corporate executives.

PROFESSION AND ART

The other school of opinion holds that the public service is in itself a vocation and a professional career and that it cannot be treated like Sunday painting or Sunday golf as an interlude for amateurs.

Those of us who take this view believe that public service is a profession and an art which must be acquired by long experience in public life. It is better to fill the higher offices with men whose main work in life has been in politics and the public service.

A Single Metropolitan Government Should Be County's Long-Range Goal

MORE than one visiting Tar Heel legislator adapted an ancient theological principle to Charlotte's problems yesterday. The General Assembly only helps those who help themselves.

The honorables left with a clearer understanding of the challenge of metropolitan growth. They were properly awed by the size of the job ahead. But they made it perfectly plain that leadership cannot be supplied by remote control from Raleigh.

This metropolitan community is still young, still in its formative stages of development. There still is a wide basic, middle-class and high achievement. The initial need is to define objectives. The second step is to prepare and adopt plans. Finally, a long-range program must be set up for the execution of the plans.

ordinations, separate groups are attacking in their own separate ways the problems of consolidating school systems, tax offices and law enforcement agencies. All three chores represent necessary steps. But also all three steps should be part of a single metropolitan plan.

Successful planning cannot be done piecemeal. Long-range goals must be charted and timetables drawn up. Clearly, the most realistic long-range goal before the people of metropolitan Mecklenburg is the complete consolidation of city and county governments.

Yet this goal has never been formally acknowledged by a governing body nor has any active interest in a long-range metropolitan plan been expressed. The opportunity ought to be seized. Mecklenburg has the resources to meet the future needs of a rapidly growing population. But it must decide to make optimum use of its resources through sound planning.

Traffic School Idea Needs Reviving

A FEW years ago the Carolina Motor Club offered an educational plan to instruct erring drivers. Only after long study the club had evolved its traffic safety school idea. It was enthusiastically received when officials met to see the plan outlined. It had the backing of police and motorists of city and county government.

The role of the court in using the school was mostly confined by the motor club. The course was explained in detail, session by session. As added evidence, the motor club presented facts to show that a traffic school really worked, as the club had contracted 20 cities with traffic schools and three national groups concerned with safety.

Miss Mansfield Holds Aloft The Banner

THE tradition of Hollywood is safe. It had appeared that the age of magnificent living had gone with the wind from television. But now there is a flickering candle left in the rubble. The light shines brightly these days from the bungalow of Jayne Mansfield Hargitay, where Mickey has been a busy lad restoring wonders first installed by the original owner, Rudy Vallee.

It is a fact that most wives would look pretty grim with their hair in curlers and a face mask reflecting pink light. Neon might do a better job. Pink, of course, is the dominant color. The house is lit with a special pink paint job. Pink fur is to be installed in all those bathrooms too.

From The Raleigh News & Observer

THE TENDER SEND-OFF

SHAKESPEARE wrote countless brilliant lines, but the immortal bard dropped his goose quill when he said the bit about the evil that men do lives after them, that the good is often interred with the bones.

The dead man is infinitely richer than ever he or the revenue folk dreamed. There is no longer a town crier, but were there one, he couldn't find a better man on his rounds. This shrill of eloquence, however, is perfectly all right. Everyone deserves a good send-off, be he channel swimmer or corpse. This is entirely appropriate and wholesome.

'You've Got To Pull More Of The Load'



Butler's Triumph The Old Pros Bit The Dust

By DORIS FLEESON

WASHINGTON DEMOCRATIC National Chairman Paul Butler scored the real triumph, and the only one of the traditional Jefferson-Jackson day weekend here. The chairman has emerged victorious in every sense. Politically and organizationally.

Butler's victory must linger sweetly on his tongue. Few national chairmen have had a tougher time between the upper millstone of the party's creditors and the other millstone of those opposed to his resolute liberalism.

ALLIANCE FAILS

The alliance spectacularly failed to win the support of the site where they wanted it. In various ways, says Butler, the Texas bosses of Congress have made

potential. The conversations on it are starting very quietly in the inner circle. The post has long seemed a vested interest of the Speaker, but that almost surely will be challenged at some point.

THE YOUNG LIONS

With few exceptions, the new directors of Democratic affairs are younger, better educated and more flexible than the old ones. They are just as partisan, but they are noticeably less trash than the old-style politicians were when they scented victory. The reason is obvious.



PAUL BUTLER ... Got Up And Went

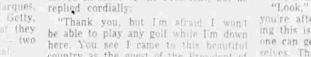


Drew Pearson's Merry-Go-Round



Face-To-Face

Only guests allowed to stay in four American families occupying limousines at the north end of the grounds, some distance from the presidential quarters.



Ike Is Touchy About Hotel Publicity

WASHINGTON UNREPORTED in the news from Mexico during Ike's stay here, some interesting anecdotes. The magnificent Hotel Plaza Marqués, owned by oil billionaire J. Paul Getty, notified all guests last Feb. 10 that they would have to leave by Feb. 17, two days before the President's arrival.

Underground Living? File And Forget

By ROBERT C. RUARK

SOMEWHERE in my don't-be-bothered-if-I-have-one-upon-an-item which seems to me typical of men trying to make big jobs for themselves, in the same vein that so much of our newsworthy announcements or policies come from speakers at banquets rather than from government halls.

Underground living, he said would be enforced by the fact that even small countries would be so much concerned in international ballistic missiles to knock out any other nation. We would then be necessary to a world of free traders.

RISE FOR BLACKMAIL

I have been listening to this sort of talk ever since we built the bomb, and I even know one lady, some 10 years ago, who bought a special station wagon to get the kiddies out of New York in case of a surprise

attack. This amuses me rather sadly when you reflect that one shower of rain—no fallout out—completely immobilizes New York traffic, and that it's nearly impossible to get out of town or back into town on a Labor Day weekend, or crostown at that rate.

CRY OF DOOM

No matter what Gen. Huebner says, I ain't going to live in no hole in America. Fatigue, or Stuzman's wherever I happen to light. The day I go underground will be the day someone will be down nearby with a spade. What I do object to, though, is the cheapness of titular honors of public information officers of his own commission.

It seems to me they have been seeking us over the skill with imminent dissolution, so long now that it's small wonder we've grown a touch calmed by the crack in doom. We might all be dead in five years, but for sure we aren't going to be living underground. And if we do get snatched, I don't very much care in the confusion all the best-planned plans of Gen. Huebner and the civil defense chiefs will be able to do much about it—not if you've been caught in a subway or traffic jam or tried to creep back to town after a long weekend.

People's Platform

Due A Tax Refund? State Just Sloughs

THE only reason I have in objection to the withholding tax is that it is so arbitrary and so very often the case with the federal withholding tax, we will be laughed at if we try to get a refund.

You cannot possibly imagine how much I was able to know that we have a government that would slough to lose. I saw this with much regret and sorrow in my heart and with all due respect to the sales tax in Raleigh (which is none).

—HENRY BOWDEN

Quote, Unquote

"Money is a hardiworden if I know how to use it, a mixture of it that I know how to use it."

Brass Hats' Planes

Eagle-eyed Sen. Clair Engle of California has spotted an appropriation for military private airplanes for administration purposes which he thinks would be sacrificed in favor of money for armaments.

'Strong Hunch'

"I have a strong hunch the American people would better airports than airplanes for the White House and other executives in Washington."