

THE PILOT

Southern Pines North Carolina

"In taking over The Pilot no changes are contemplated. We will try to keep this a good paper. We will try to make a little money for all concerned. Where there seems to be an occasion to use our influence for the public good we will try to do it. And we will treat everybody alike."—James Boyd, May 23, 1941.

Government By Medical Advice

It doesn't often happen that an editor is fortunate enough to have an example of what he has been praising or denouncing fall into his lap in time to form a fine "What-did-I-tell-you?" editorial comment in the next issue. Too often the reverse is true. But once in a blue moon it happens and that prophetic experience can be savored to the full.

Last week The Pilot published an editorial pointing out some of the reasons why President Eisenhower should not run again. One of the most important was the fact that he must be protected from over-exertion and that, while some of his work-load may be carried by others, there are certain functions which only he can perform. A few days later came the news that, because of his recent operation, it would be impossible for him to receive India's Prime Minister Nehru. The visit has been indefinitely postponed.

A very great deal is at stake in the relations between the United States and India. It may be that peace in the East is at stake, even peace in the world. Much had been expected from the Nehru visit. It was felt that the two men shared a common feeling for democracy and that Eisenhower's honesty and sincere personality would perhaps convince the Indian leader of the honesty and sincerity of the United States.

When the President became ill, it was realized that he would be unable to carry out such a taxing assignment and it was believed that Secretary Dulles would take his place. The thought sent cold shivers down the backs of those who have watched with concern the impression Dulles has made in India. It is only

necessary to recall the extreme divergence of views on the role of the neutral nation, as expressed by the President and his Secretary of State—the latter calling neutrality "immoral"—to feel that a meeting between Dulles and Nehru might well be fatal.

It is a relief that a Dulles-Nehru meeting will not take place, but this only throws into sharper perspective the plight of a nation whose president cannot carry out the full scope of his duties. That this is the sort of thing that is almost bound to be repeated again and again under President Eisenhower hardly needs stressing.

There is appended to this tale of prophecy-come-true a strange coda. Though the President called off the Nehru visit because of doctors' orders, it was announced that he would attend a conference in Panama scheduled for only a few days later.

This also might have been foreseen for it is right in line with the many boners this administration has pulled. If such a piece of seeming discourtesy does not end for once and all any hope of friendship with India it will be surprising.

And why was this done? Why is there such odd judgment at what is important and what is not? Why, with all those public relations experts around, should such a gratuitous insult be handed to one of the world's great figures? The only answer we can think of is: medical advice. Perhaps the trip to Panama is deemed beneficial; perhaps it is as simple and inexcusable as that.

For it is inexcusable and profoundly dangerous that the United States should have government by medical advice.

If It Should Happen Here

Several years ago, it will probably be recalled, the town of Peekskill in New York state, was the scene of serious civil disturbances. The Communist Party had chosen this area as a likely place to stir up trouble and had planned several gatherings there, to be addressed by leaders among whom was the Negro singer, Paul Robeson, one of the finest artists this nation has produced.

Looking back on the violence that flared, it was generally conceded that matters had been very badly handled. The authorities more or less lost their heads, or did not have very good heads to start with, as there had been no alerting of police or training in what they were to do. Criticism was wide-spread. Among some of the most constructive comments from the press and leading citizens and organizations was a pamphlet issued by Freedom House, the society founded in memory of Wendell Willkie to forward the principles of freedom, equality, and justice which were the cornerstones of Willkie's philosophy.

The pamphlet was entitled: "Fifteen Rules For Dealing With Communists." For common sense, wisdom and shrewd psychology this "work-sheet" strikes us as remarkably smart. Furthermore, though it is directed at dealing with troubles incited by Communists, many of its fifteen rules would apply to almost any sort

of civil disturbance.

The danger of Communist violence seems today to be remote, at least for the moment. But there are other issues that carry in them the seeds of civil unrest. Besides, it must always be kept in mind that in every country there are Communists, under party discipline or operating on their own, ready to seize any opportunity to make trouble for the free nations, ready to seize on any issue—even a purely local issue in a small town—to foster dissatisfaction, disunity, unrest; to set one man against another, one race against another.

We were reminded of the Freedom House pamphlet as we read a few weeks ago of the "Civil Rights Schools" being conducted by the FBI for Southern police officers. The schools are designed to explain to policemen the jurisdiction of the federal government, with emphasis on the protection of civil rights.

The Freedom House rules contain much that, adopted as standard procedure by the police and civil authorities, could, we believe, be of great help in keeping the peace and upholding justice in small disturbances as well as in those more violent and widespread.

We are reprinting a selection of the "rules" in the belief that Pilot readers will find them interesting reading and well worth pondering. They may be found on page 7.

THEY'RE SAYING

Foundation For Strength

The official American reaction to the confirmed fact that the Russians have the H-bomb was what might have been expected—the attempt to play it down, followed by the boast about American progress and finally by a sort of fuzzy murmuring about "the need for greater civilian defense. . . a build-up of perimeter warning services. . . an air-tight system of protection. . ."

Actually, there is no system of defense which can really protect the country. There is no perimeter warning service which is immune to human error 24 hours a day. There is no air-tight system of protection.

There is only a world making its last desperate attempt to sidestep the knowledge it knows it must ultimately face, which is that there is no way to save civilization unless civilization stops this nonsense and gets down to the hard business of actually doing away with war.

This is a very difficult thing to do, of course. It is much easier to build up armaments and drift into conflict and slaughter human beings by the millions. This has always been the easy way out, and it is the method humanity has always followed. Now that the ultimate weapons have been placed in the hands of two great powers, however, it really is the way out—right out of existence. If anybody is still interested in existence, some other method will have to be found.

It is this instinctive knowledge, perhaps, which accounts for that widespread "apathy" which so agitates civil defense authorities. They

worry because nobody gets very excited, not even in Washington or New York, where the chances of survival in event of an attack have presumably dropped to zero overnight. Nobody can quite believe that those who have charge of the bombs will actually be so insane as to destroy the world; a sort of basic commonsense argues against it. Mad as they are, one thinks, they can't possibly be that mad.

If the nations are to withdraw from this precipice and return to sanity before it is too late, however, some very difficult sacrifices are going to have to be made. They are not sacrifices involving "greatly increased expenditures for defense," "heavy restrictions on the civilian population," "a long period of armed watchfulness." They are much greater and heavier sacrifices than that.

They are the sacrifices involved in restraining human greed, human selfishness, human cupidity and human deceit. These are sacrifices that really are sacrifices, and they will require of the nations and their leaders a forbearance, a patience and a fortitude beyond anything yet demanded of mankind.

There is very little real protection left in the world today, and such as it is, it must be based in the last analysis upon the fundamental integrities of the heart and the spirit. Confronted by the weapons of destruction modern technology has devised, armaments, while still needed, will prove inadequate unless they are backed and bolstered by a decency, a goodwill and an adherence to principle which pays more than lip-service to the things which must be done to save the peace.

—Washington Star



Roman Candles

The Public Speaking

Grave Injustice

To the Editor:

I am a soldier in the United States Army, willingly giving up two years of my life for what I believe to be the greatest nation in the world. . . a nation with the greatest capacity for achievement in all history. We must realize our great potential and continue to make progress.

It has been with great pride that I have watched this progress being made continually from day to day, yet in one day progress was stopped in North Carolina. You the people are to blame!

Saturday, May 26, you went to the polls to express yourselves in choosing candidates to represent you in government. The results of that election were of great consequence; it proved to me that we are not as intelligent and enlightened as I would have liked to believe; that our progress in the south has been only in material things and not in the improvement of men's minds. We are still ignorant and narrow minded.

I do not pretend to have a great knowledge of politics but it appears obvious that you have done yourselves a grave injustice and deprived yourselves of intellect to represent you that it has taken years to groom and train. I do not mean that Congressmen Deane and Chatham were not intelligent men when you first chose them to represent you. But surely you realize that it took time for these men to "feel" their way around in Washington. Now after having obtained knowledge of the workings of government and political "know-how" that is immeasurable you have sacrificed all this.

I would like to direct a question at you, my fellow citizens. Why did this happen?

Are we going to rationalize and say that the incumbent congressmen were elected because they most nearly supported your views or are we going to face facts and admit that these men are being put into office because they took advantage of a situation and came out as staunch supporters of the glorious Southern Manifesto? You were willing to let Deane represent you and serve you with a spirit that has proven untiring and faithful to your needs. You sent him to Washington with a job to do and because he performed his job in a manner that he has told you many times he sincerely believed the only course of action for him to follow you have failed to reelect him.

The obvious issue was the infamous Southern Manifesto which was born of ignorance and prejudice. The organizers of this document have said that its merits (if any) are of little value.

I can see nothing has been accomplished by drafting such a document. I am merely surprised at the men who did sign it.

brings the thought to mind that they feared political death had they failed to go along with the men who were responsible for its being. I have nothing but admiration for those who stood up for their beliefs and duty even though they could foresee the results that were inevitable.

I am shocked, ashamed and disappointed to learn that you were so willing to make such a sacrifice in order to retain your petty biases and prejudices. May we all not suffer from the ignorance that has led you to your decision.

EDWARD N. HARRISON
West End.

Urges Preserve Character Gained By Public Schools

To the Editor:

Here is an open letter to the General Assembly:

Sirs: It has come to my attention that "members of the General Assembly are reported almost unanimously in favor of allowing public schools to close 'in favor of private schools' when conditions become intolerable'."

Apparently there is a need to point out that there is something in the cause and consequence of America that has drawn to her the attention of all mankind. The world has seen her brave. Her love of liberty; her ardor in supporting it; the justice of her claims, and the constancy of her fortitude has won her the esteem of the world.

Her situation is such, that to whatever point she casts her eyes, past, present or to come, new matter arises to convince her that she is right. In her conduct towards her enemy, and her dealings with those she mothers, no sense of injustice should be left upon the mind. Untainted with ambition and a stranger to revenge, her progress has been marked by Providence which, in every stage of all conflicts, has blessed America with successes that never could have been attained without the public schools.

It is useful to turn to your history book and call to mind the times of trouble and the scenes of complicated anguish that are past and gone. Then every expense toward education was cheap, compared with the dread of conquest and the misery of the hereditary yoke to old world ideas.

To those educated in the American way, it is needless to expend much time in exposing the folly of so-called hereditary right. If there are any so weak as to believe in it, let them promiscuously worship at the shrine of the old world orders—and welcome. Free thinking people will neither copy their humility nor disturb their devotion.

Any system, as has been proven, that has the taint of the old world order creates men who look upon themselves as born to

reign, and others to obey, and they soon grow insolent; selected from the rest of mankind, their minds are early poisoned by pseudo-importance; and the world they act in differs so materially from the world at large that they lose track of its true interests.

When the "old world order type" govern, they are frequently the most unfit to lay out laws, as is apparently now the case, except on an hereditary basis.

Our freedom-line is fixed. Our freedom-lot is cast. America, the child of fate, has arrived at maturity. Too great to yield and too noble to insult; superior to misfortune, and generous in success, let us untaintedly preserve the character we have gained through public school education and show the future ages an example of unequalled magnanimity.

TOM O'NEIL
Southern Pines.

Public Well Informed On President's Illness

To the Editor:

It appears to this reader that you do the President and his advisors a grave injustice when you state "that they (the people) remember how they were fooled by the White House and the doctors at the time of the heart attack and wonder how much they are being fooled now." Reference is to your editorial of June 28th entitled "President Eisenhower Should Not Run."

This would seem an extraordinary statement and one that could have been evoked only by the ultimate in partisan prejudice. To most of us the frankness with which the public was kept informed was both refreshing and something unique in public relations having to do with presidential illnesses.

Compare this with the case of Grover Cleveland. When his doctors decided on a throat operation they sneaked him onto a river boat, in the dead of night, and while steaming up the Hudson the operation was performed. The public knew nothing of this until days later. The explanation given for this secrecy, at the time, was that it was necessary for the protection of the stock market.

Or, compare the case of Woodrow Wilson when, for months, he was kept isolated in the White House and no information regarding his mental or physical health was allowed to get to the public, or even to the Government itself, until after the Congress threatened to take action.

And, as for Roosevelt, the story of a dying President elected for a fourth term, is recent history. Surely the final paragraph of your editorial must have been written with tongue in cheek.

E. W. BUSH, D. O.
Southern Pines

Grains of Sand

Shakespeare 1956

You catch a sort of glimpse of relativity when you prowl through Shakespeare. So many times you'd think he was living and talking right now.

Thought how hot it was the other day, (now we just wonder how THAT came into our head!) and, a few minutes later, as we were looking up something else, we plunked on this: Henry IV talking:

"Pray that our armies join not in a hot day; for, by the Lord, I take but two shirts out with me, and mean not to sweat extraordinarily."

At that, though, Shakespeare wasn't writing about The South USA—or he'd have specified ten instead of two.

Here's another that rings a bell in tune with our times: Henry IV, too.

"When we mean to build, We first survey the plot, then draw the model; And when we see the figure of the house

Then we must rate the cost of the erection. . . and then as a rule, WE quit, Mr. Will. How 'bout you?"

Veep For Scenery

Harper's editor, John Fischer, is a character. He has written a piece in the July number that only a character could write.

It is in the "Editor's Easy Chair" part of the magazine and is called by the antic title: "Running Barefoot Through a Hayloft Full of Ten Dollar Bills."

It's about the Great Foundations and its terribly funny about them. Mr. Fischer says the Foundations and their Funds are set up all wrong—"with a lot of vice presidents in charge of large woolly abstractions, such as World Peace, Adult Education and International Understanding. Nobody," he says, "could have any fun with assignments like that." HIS fund, he says, will go in for more stimulating projects.

We won't spoil this hilarious article for the many readers it should get by quoting any more, except for one paragraph which rang such a dingdong guffaw of a bell that we can't resist it. If Pilot editorial readers discern in it some slight likeness to past pages, we shall swoon with pride. Here goes with Mr. Fischer and a bit from his Foundation Fund:

"We shall have a vice president in charge of scenery. His job will be to make the country look less messy."

"He will offer a \$50 bounty to anyone who chops down a roadside billboard. Whenever one of these public-spirited citizens is caught in the act, the Fund will pay his fine and court costs."

"He will buy up the ugliest building in every city over 50,000 in population, raze it, and plant the liberated ground in sycamores."

"He will supply hot-rod cars and baseball bats to gangs of juvenile delinquents, and pay them to bust up every Bar-B-Q Drive-In and Bideaway Tourist Court on Route 66. This will discourage eyesores and keep the boys off the streets."

"He will maintain a skyscraper full of criminal lawyers to defend arsonists and any impulsive soul who happens to kill a slum landlord in a fit of well-justified rage. As Veblen once noted: the two essentials of progress are fires and funerals."

"But won't Congress run us ragged with Investigations? No, sir. Our charter provides that the first time a Congressman lays a hand on us we shall give all our remaining money to the rival candidate in his district, and then go out of business. We fear no evil."

Lucky Harper's Magazine to have such a character for its editor! Not to mention such a grand writer.

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Published Every Thursday by THE PILOT, Incorporated Southern Pines, North Carolina

1941—JAMES BOYD—1944

Katharine Boyd Editor
C. Benedict Associate Editor
Vance Derby News Editor
Dan S. Ray Gen. Mgr.
C. G. Council Advertising
Mary Scott Newton Business
Bessie Cameron Smith Society

Composing Room
Lochamy McLean, Dixie B. Ray,
Michael Valen, Jasper Swearingen
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Subscription Rates:
One Year \$4. 6 mos. \$2; 3 mos. \$1
Entered at the Postoffice at Southern Pines, N. C., as second class mail matter

Member National Editorial Assn. and N. C. Press Assn.