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THE PEACE OF GOD: The peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.—Philippians 4:7.

Judicial Convenience

By a v of the esteemed Public Ledger comes the information that "indignation was rampant among members of the bar and their clients in civil actions set for the July term of Granville Superior Court" in Oxford over action of Judge Henry L. Stevens, Jr., in adjourning the term Tuesday afternoon and leaving for his home in Warsaw.

But, heck, ain't it been hot?

Plans and Denials

Henry Wallace, personal pick of President Roosevelt on the ticket with him that will attempt to smash America's sacred anti-third term tradition, says he will quit his job to campaign for vice president after he has been officially notified. And in the same breath the secretary lets loose a salvo to the effect that the vast AAA set-up will not be used as a political machine.

It impresses us as being proper that the secretary separate himself from the public payroll while he is seeking higher office. Yet the President is not resigning his office to run again, nor did Cactus Jack Garner step out four years ago, when, with Mr. Roosevelt, he sought and won re-election. Those with good memories can recall, too, that the present head of the Democratic national ticket did not resign as governor of New York to run for president in 1932 for the first time. There is plenty of precedent for Mr. Wallace to stay put if it suits the top man that he should hold on.

Maybe the huge AAA organization won't be used for political purposes; it should not and we hope it will not be. But what one may hope and what he sees actually happening are at times quite at variance.

It has been repeatedly said that the WPA relief set-up was not in politics, and that government funds were not being and would not be made use of in election campaigns.

But there was a lot of talk to the contrary in that "mandate" election of 1936; there was a lot of talk of pressure being brought from Washington in the 1938 purge, and in one notable instance of a certain senatorial campaign two years ago.

Already, before the 1940 campaign is scarcely begun, more than a billion dollars has been voted for relief, and the time in which it is to be spent limited to eight months from the beginning of the current fiscal year, which is barely a month old. And some people are wondering just how much politics there will be in the spending in the multi-billion-dollar defense program.

The agricultural chief announces his plan of retirement and denies agricultural subsidies will exude the odor of political taint. To all of which we can enthusiastically shout our fervent amens. But Mr. Wallace knows the man who is agreeing to, if he did not suggest, his retirement during the campaign, will still have the power to restore him to office should he fall by the wayside. And if he should win, he won't care for the old job again anyhow.

So about all the country can do is to wait and hope—and in November vote.

A Nebraska man who has lived in a cave for 59 years is now visiting New York. What an odd time to leave such a nice, comfortable, bomb-proof air raid shelter!

There are 59 summer theaters scattered through New England. The actors, it appears, now outnumber the farmers.

Oh! The Heat

For several days now we have been listening for some one to blame the heat on Hitler or Roosevelt, or say that it is a sign of the times. Maybe a lot of people have seen hotter spells than this as the result of Hitler's maniacal doings, and a lot of anti-third-termers likewise have found themselves quite hot under the collar toward the President. And it may be a sign of the times, in that it is indicative of a place still hotter than we have experienced the past ten days if we fail to mend our ways.

One thing certain is that when they come to write the history of the year 1940, they cannot safely or properly overlook the weather. It has played tricks on us that are almost as unusual as the blitzkriegs. Figuring back a bare six months, some strange things come to light. It was on the night of the 27th of January that the mercury slid to eight degrees below zero for an all-time low hereabouts. It was the afternoon of the 27th of July—six months to the day—that what is apparently an all-time high temperature of 105 was recorded. That is a difference of 113 degrees from one extreme to the other, and in the space of exactly six months to the day, in the same year. Maybe, after all, it is a sign of the times, eh?

One who is the least bit superstitious can make a lot out of this. They could say that not only has old Mars set out to hand us a wallop, but that the weather man has also turned against us. Well, well!

What next? And what are we coming to, and whither are we headed? Bla, bla; for our part we only wish we knew.

It is fairly generally known and admitted that public affairs could be carried on with far greater efficiency and with from a third to half the present cost but for the hideous patronage system that infests governmental agencies. There are not enough good citizens to root it out, and the people not only stand for it but give their approval, many in the hope of somehow, sometime personally becoming a beneficiary to an easy living. Others tolerate and support it because they can use it as a vehicle upon which to ride into office or to stay in once they make the grade.

Governor Sam Jones' drastic purge is so unusual that it makes an oddity of him, but a characterization, nevertheless, that is wholesome and one that justifies a feeling of genuine pride on his part and on the part also of the people of his State as well, if not, indeed, the whole country.

A Louisiana Purge

Hedged about as it is with the stench of cruelty and murder in European dictator countries, and with the odor of political venom in our own, the word *purge* has come to have about it something that makes it feared and despised. But down in Louisiana they are removing some of that sour taste and giving the term a ring of respectability.

Governor Sam Jones, who a few months ago took the measure of the old corrupt Huey Long dynasty and threw it overboard, is purging the State payrolls of some 20,000 henchmen of the former czar. Many of these will not be replaced because their jobs will be abolished, and new and uncontaminated employees will be put into positions that are essential to the proper conduct of the government.

Louisiana, under its new governor, is setting an example for other states, and even the Federal government, to follow. Of course, they will not take the hint, but this old game of political patronage is one of the cankers that infest and shackles the efficient functioning of democracy. It is present nearly everywhere in our government machinery from Washington on down, and those in position to perform the operation necessary to remove it are either unable or unwilling, chiefly the latter, to undertake the process.

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A Law To Himself

American citizens who by their silence or otherwise are consenting to the conscription act now on its way through Congress might do well to find out what the bill actually contains. For the first time a copy of the "Selective Training and Service Act of 1940" has come into our hands, and some sections of it confer amazing powers upon the President.

After enumerating a long list of authorities granted to the chief executive in administering the act after it becomes law, there follows this Sec. 12 (a): "All regulations and proclamations issued by the President, or pursuant to his direction, in carrying out the provisions of this act shall have the force and effect of law." The full meaning of that sentence, in its final analysis, is, in effect, to make the President a law unto himself.

But the people submit to it, and that is why movements of this sort are carried through to success.

The world does, occasionally, learn its lesson. So far no one has called this one the war to end all wars.

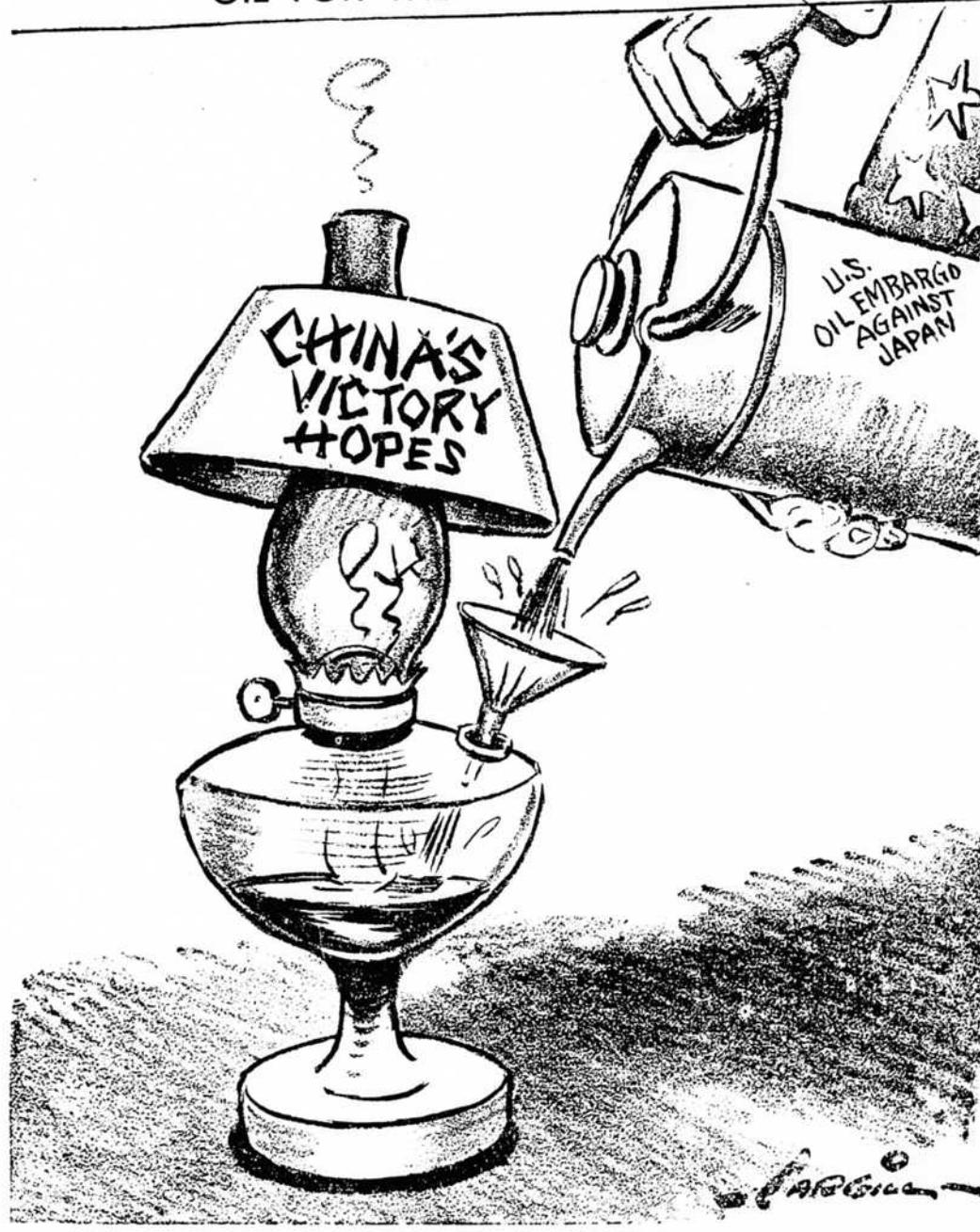
Recent baseball news suggests that this may become known as New York Yankee weather.

Positions on the bench carry duties and responsibilities for which most people are unsuited and unqualified. But they are not so burdensome but that a few those entrusted with the work honestly seek the posts. And they owe it to the cause of justice and to the State to put public interests ahead of their own. After all, it is their job, and when they take liberties as Judge Stevens did in Granville county, if the reports are accurate, they cannot be said to be faithfully discharging their obligations.

Since the term of court has been set by law and the calendar fixed by the bar, it would seem to have been the proper procedure to work through the remaining two days necessary to finish the docket, or at least to have obtained the consent of court officials and attorneys to shorten the session if sufficient reasons could be given for doing so. Certainly there could have been some consideration for the rights and plans of others as well as the convenience of the presiding judge.

Another fallacious proposal that is being inserted into the act is one that would force employers to reinstate draftees in their old civilian jobs after finishing their course in the army. In the first place, such a requirement is not necessary. In the vast majority of cases, employers would be happy to cooperate to that end and would consider it a patriotic duty and privilege to take care of youth who come back to their old

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jobs after serving their country.

But to make this compulsory might conceivably work a tremendous hardship on some firms. Where a youth went away for a year and his job had to be filled during his absence, and the vacancy could be filled only by the promise of permanency, what could an employer do in that case? On the one hand, his business suffers if the place is not filled. On the other, if filled on terms of permanency, he faces the alternative of violating a law.

It is another case of government interference in private affairs where it has no proper right to interfere. But that is nothing new in these days; it is so common that free enterprise is virtually a thing of the past and bids fair to remain so and more so unless somehow, some time we shall experience a rebirth of freedom in America.

The conscription act is a new departure in American life. If found necessary and a last resort, few would object. But we have not come to that yet, except arbitrarily in the minds of a comparatively few people who have authority and are getting ready to use it with a vengeance, whatever the wish of citizens generally. Meantime, and along with all the other activities, more and greater power is being vested in the hands of one man, until we know neither where we now stand nor whether we are headed.

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ADMINISTRATORS NOTICE I have qualified as administrator of the estate of F. E. Marion, deceased. This is to notify all persons having claims against the estate of said deceased to present the same to me duly verified on or before the 9th day of July, 1941, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons indebted to the estate of said deceased will please make immediate payment.

This 8th day of July, 1940. A. A. Bunn, Administrator of the Estate of F. E. Marion, deceased.

NOTICE OF SUMMONS BY PUBLICATION. In Superior Court.

State of North Carolina: County of Vance: G. L. Burton, Plaintiff.

Funny Ange Burton, Defendant.

The defendant, Funny Ange Burton, will take notice that an action entitled as above has been commenced in the superior court of Vance county, North Carolina, for Divorce absolute upon ground of two year separation; and the same defendant will further take notice that she is required to appear at the office of the clerk of the superior court in the courthouse in Henderson, North Carolina, on the 16th, day of August, 1940, and answer or defend. In the complaint in said action, or the plaintiff will apply to the court for the relief demanded in said complaint.

This the 15th, of July 1940.

E. O. FALKNER, Clerk of Superior Court of Vance County.

D. P. McDuffee, Attorney.

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