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THURSDAY, JUNE 25, 1953

When It's Too Late

All indications are that the merger of the Nantahala National Forest with the Pisgah will become effective next Wednesday, as scheduled.

There are many facts and factors that argue strongly against the desirability or even economy of the move.

Many of the arguments in favor of the merger are shot through with inconsistency—to put the matter mildly.

But nobody in Washington seems to consider it necessary to defend or even discuss the proposal, much less to reconsider the apparently somewhat hasty decision.

Time alone will tell whether the move is wise.

But, unfortunately, if and when the Forest Service itself recognizes its mistake, the people who will have suffered, in dollars and in efficiency of service, will be not the people in Washington, but those whom they are supposed to serve, the taxpayers.

Faith Falters

In simple, hart-hitting style, President Eisenhower the other day condemned all "book burning".

While the President, in his extemporaneous remarks at the Dartmouth College commencement, named no names and cited no instances, what he said followed action of the State Department in "purging" thousands of books from U. S. overseas libraries. The purge, an apparent result of an investigation by Senator McCarthy, sought to eliminate all controversial books, and included works by respected present-day conservatives as well as liberals and radicals. Among the authors in the latter group eliminated was Thomas Paine, hero of the American Revolution and friend of Thomas Jefferson.

In his classic defense of the freedom of the mind, Mr. Eisenhower said, in part:

"We have got to fight it (Communism) with something better, not try to conceal the thinking of our own people.

"They are part of America, and even if they think ideas that are contrary to ours, their right to say them, their right to record them and their right to have them in places where they are accessible to others is unquestioned, or it is not American.

"Don't join the book burners," the President told the graduates. "Don't think you are going to conceal faults by concealing evidence that they ever existed. Don't be afraid to go into your library and read every book.

"As long as any document does not offend your own ideas of decency, that should be the only censorship. How will we defeat communism unless we know what it is, what it teaches and why does it have such an appeal for men?"

Then, just two days later, the President took back some of his bold and inspiring words—and won the plaudits of Senator McCarthy!

So far as he was concerned, the President said in his second statement, the State Department could go ahead and "burn" books that advocate Communism. In explanation of that comment, he drew a distinction between books which explain the nature of Communism, and he mentioned the

writings of Marx and Stalin, and those which openly advocate Communism.

On the surface, that sounds like a sensible distinction.

But would the President argue that Marx and Stalin did not advocate Communism? or would he suggest that, because they perhaps did not advocate it openly, their advocacy was less dangerous? Where would the President draw the line?

Are the writings of dead Communists less dangerous than the writings of live ones?

As Mr. Eisenhower so well said, it is not possible to fight Communism unless we understand it, and we cannot understand it unless we examine it and the ideas upon which it is based. How, then, can we understand present-day Communism unless we know what present-day Communists advocate? and how are we to know, if we burn their books.

Far more fundamental than those questions, however, is the fact that ideas rule the world, and that no idea ever yet has been destroyed by book burning. A false idea can be destroyed only by truth, and there can be no conflict of ideas unless all ideas are free.

Our entire Western philosophy, indeed, is based on faith that truth inevitably will vanquish error. And that faith, if it is honest with itself, demands that our ideas and the other fellow's be given the opportunity for a fair contest.

The alarming thing about today's situation is not that there are Communist books in U. S. libraries or even that there are Communists among U. S. citizens. What really endangers America is that many Americans have lost their faith.

Beneath the antics of McCarthy, and the State Department's book purge, and the President's partial retraction of his magnificent statement at Dartmouth—beneath them all is fear.

Those who would cover up Communism, those who would jail every man whose ideas are unorthodox, those who would burn every controversial book, are afraid—not merely afraid of Communism, but afraid that truth and freedom no longer are to be trusted.

Others' Opinions

DIPLOMACY

(The Wall Street Journal)

The plump, fortyish lady fumed at her portrait photographer. "Whatever happened to your skill, your art, your technique?" she demanded. "The last portrait you made of me was beautiful, exquisite."

REPORT ON ASIA

(Smithfield Herald)

For generations America has looked toward Europe rather than Asia. We have studied the languages, the culture and the literature of England, France, Germany, Spain, and Italy, while we remain ignorant of China, Japan, India and the rest of the Orient. But today in the cold war that exists between America and Russia, great decisions are being made in Asia. And tomorrow the issue of war or peace may be settled in Asia rather than in Europe.

Justice William O. Douglas, a distinguished American jurist and a far-seeing Democratic leader, realizes the importance of Asia. He has travelled during the past several years to most of the countries of Asia and has brought back to his fellow Americans a significant report. In one book, "Beyond the High Himalayas," he told what was happening in Central Asia. His latest book, "North from Malaya," is a report from Malaya, Indo-China, Burma, the Philippines, Formosa and Korea. Here is the gist of his advice to his fellow countrymen:

Our intervention in Korea was a sound political measure, for if the North Koreans had been allowed to be victorious there would have been other violent eruptions in Asia and the Communist power would have been extended over vital areas.

Peace in Korea can come only through a basic political settlement with China.

If peace is secured in Korea and if the Communist government of China proves its ability to govern China without serious domestic resistance, then Red China should be admitted to the United Nations. "If we want to have a world organization, then it should be representative of the world as it is."

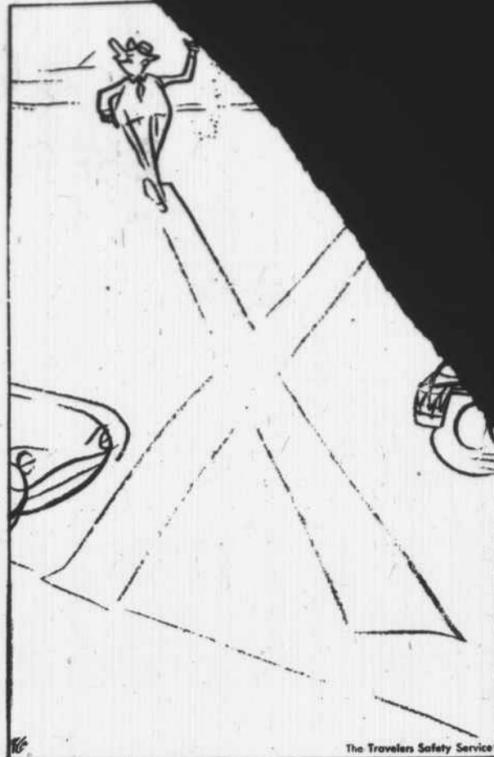
Formosa should not be surrendered to the Communists but maintained as an independent regime. On the other hand, American commitment to help Chiang Kai-shek free the mainland of China "would be the most reckless venture in international politics we have ever known."

In Vietnam (Indo-China), we must realize that "the only government that can save Vietnam from Communism is an anti-French government."

As for Red China, "the long-range strategy must be to pry China loose from the Soviets."

Throughout Asia we should encourage the self-determination of peoples and not insist upon tying the nations of Asia to us with military strings.

We should encourage the development of a Pacific Union or



In 1952, 8,650 pedestrians were killed and 265,000 hurt. Only YOU can prevent traffic accidents!

Asian League within the framework of the United Nations "as a genuine third force for the promotion of democratic influences in the region" rather than insist that the nations of Asia take sides in the cold war between Russia and the United States.

In conclusion, Justice Douglas says: "The present-day struggle is for the balance of political power in the world. That struggle can be won only by ideas. And there are no more potent ideas at work in all the world than America's standards of freedom, justice, and equality. The Communist creed is cheap and tawdry by comparison."

SENATOR SMITH AT ELON

(Winston-Salem Journal)

Some of the things that Senator Willis Smith said in a commencement address at Elon College have disquieting implications. He suggested that all who advocate government "planning" are "spendthrifts." He indicated that anyone who disagrees with him just doesn't know the facts. Worse still, he as much as said that anyone who opposes the McCarran-Walters Immigration Act is following the lead of the Communist Daily Worker.

Now it is true that "planning" has accumulated some bad connotations. It has become synonymous in many minds with the spending and high-tax programs of the New Deal. It is a term which has become associated with Socialist government, and in that sense all of us, along with Senator Smith, well may shy away from planners.

Yet, there is nothing wrong with planning, in itself. Indeed, it would be foolish for the government to fail to plan for spending the vast sums of money that it collects from the taxpayers. Every proposed expenditure should be carefully examined as to the need for it, and spent, once approved, according to a carefully laid plan.

When he got around to the McCarran-Walters Act, the Senator said that opposition to it "had its origin in the official Communist newspaper in America, The Daily Worker." He added that many other newspapers unwittingly joined in the attacks on the law and said that the editorial writers and columnists who opposed it "clearly demonstrated that they had nothing whatsoever about the intent or necessity of the law."

This is a careless and a sweeping statement. The Senator is saying that the only informed position is his own, and that anyone who takes a different position is following the Communist line.

President Truman opposed the McCarran-Walters Act. In fact he vetoed it. Would the Senator say that the former President didn't know what was in the act or that he was following the Communist line? President Eisenhower has called for revision of the act to eliminate the discriminatory features to which former President Truman objected. Would the Senator say that President Eisenhower doesn't know what he is talking about or that he is following the Communist line? The same questions apply to many individuals and newspapers critical of the act.

Communism is a grave threat to the principles which we in this country hold dear. But we do our own cause no good when we suggest that anyone who happens to agree with a position that coincides with a position which the Communists currently are taking is by that token wittingly or unwittingly aiding and abetting the Communist cause. When we get into that frame of mind, we begin to decide issues not on their merits, but by the way the Communists want them decided. All the Communists have to do is to take a stand directly opposite to what they really want. Automatically they achieve their true objective, because the proper course for us to take, by this theory, is the one opposite to that which the Communists advocate.

Senator Smith strongly believes that the McCarran-Walters Act is a good law, and he undoubtedly has what he considers excellent reasons for his belief. Yet he is doing his own cause no good by indicating that those who take a different view are either ignoramuses or dupes of the Communists, or both.

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reason, however, the newspapers
do not seem to be giving play
to the present governor's re
removal of department heads that
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ticularly in the editorial space.
Willis Smith will have one
big thing against him in a
Democratic primary. Many par
ty members will not be able to
forget the fact Senator Smith
could not find the time or the
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Do You Remember
(Looking back at the files of the...)

50 YEARS AGO

"Nancy", the big Indian squaw, who for twenty-five or thirty years was cook and housekeeper for Uncle Shade Stallcup before his death, was here visiting Mr. W. R. Stallcup's family for several days last week. Her home is in Cherokee County.

Miss Edna Jacobs, of Anniston, Ala., aged 12 years, arrived Thursday evening on a summer's visit to relatives here. She left Anniston and came via Rome, Knoxville, and Asheville, and made the trip in 23 1/2 hours to Franklin.

25 YEARS AGO

In this modern day of cars and many means of transportation one rarely sees such a sight as did the people of Tusquitee last Thursday afternoon when four girls and a boy dressed in hiking clothes passed with haversacks swung across their shoulders. Their astonishment was greater, however, when they were told that the party had hiked from Franklin since ten o'clock. The girls were Elizabeth and Hattie Slagle, Carolyn and Frances Nolen, and their brother, Horace Nolen, all of Franklin.

WANT A FIVE DOLLAR GOLD PIECE FREE? The Idle Hour Theatre will give one away every night next week. Adv.

Mr. J. E. Rice has just returned from a trip to his former home in Louisiana. He reports the weather down there almost unbearable and was exceedingly glad to get back to the mountains.

10 YEARS AGO

Flames of undetermined origin completely destroyed the Iola Methodist Church, about four miles north of Franklin, and all of the church fixtures Saturday morning.

Joe Ashear left Tuesday for Atlanta, Ga., on a business trip "to buy merchandise if it can be bought."