



"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.

Thumbs Down On Investigating Atrocities

Since the Korean truce, there has been a feeling in some quarters that a study of alleged atrocities toward UN prisoners should be made and the facts made public. Senator McCarthy, doubtless looking upon this suggestion as a likely opportunity to acquire bigger and better headlines, has now announced the formation of a Senate committee to investigate the treatment of prisoners by the North Koreans and Chinese.

Leaving aside the question of how such an investigation fits into the pattern of law-making supposed to govern Congressional activities, the doubt remains: what purpose would it serve? Would it do any good and might it not do harm?

That there have been atrocities stands to reason, or rather to the unreason that accompanies war and especially war in which the peoples of some nations take part. Brutality is a part of life in the more underprivileged, under-developed countries. Where millions starve yearly in famine-ravaged lands, or die in floods or from cholera and other plagues, where most of the people live in crowded conditions and poverty beyond our imagining, there is a low value on human life. The Asiatic world is still at a much lower level of civilization, materialistically speaking, than the West. With suffering so wide-spread and the means to allay it generally lacking, callousness and brutality are bound to be ever-present.

It is routine with most Asiatic nations to keep prisoners on a near-starvation diet and give them the most meagre clothing and shelter. Such treatment is not reserv-

ed for an enemy but is the same for all. It must be realized, too, that Asiatics eat far less than Westerners: prison rations for Asiatics often mean death from starvation for the white races. Orientals are stoical and fatalistic. They expect suffering and death if they are captured in war. This is, in fact, one reason why so few of them surrender in battle.

Ways so deeply ingrained could not be easily changed. No amount of action taken by the U. S. Senate or fulminations in the UN Assembly would have the least effect. What then would be gained by the proposed investigation?

Greater understanding of the heroism of our men. Yes, that would result and it would be a good result. But would it be good enough to counterbalance the terrible suffering which revelation of atrocities with all their ghastly details would bring to the families of those still missing? We are confident that the men who have returned would be the first to insist that nothing be done to make the agony greater. The imagination, fed on the few stories that have been released, causes pain enough; what would be the sense in adding to it?

All that would result from the proposed investigation would be more headlines for McCarthy, added suffering for the desolated folks at home, and, last and not least, deeper distrust between peoples who must, sooner or later, somehow or other, learn to live in the same world. Surely the times are precarious enough already without doing something that will make them worse especially when it can accomplish no reasonable good.

Domestic Relations And The Courts

From the press table of courtrooms—in Moore county and we reckon elsewhere, too—a reporter gets a disillusioning view of the great institution of matrimony.

On the civil side of the docket, each term of Superior court zips off a dozen or so divorces.

In recorders court, where criminal cases are tried, an amazingly large part of the weekly session is consumed with the altercations of spouses, ranging from physical combat between husband and wife or between either of these and the well-known third party, to the pitiful abandonment and non-support cases.

Testimony in these cases is usually not only lengthy but also so confused, contradictory and frustrating that we marvel at the ability of judges to hand down a decision that will throw some light and order into them.

Most of the cases involve a man who has abandoned and is failing to support his wife and children. At times, in these cases, it is apparent that the wife is not without blame in the mess before the court.

The standard solution is a sentence to the roads for the husband, to be suspended on payment of so much per week for the wife and children, usually through the clerk of court who makes sure the wife gets the money or that the money is spent for the children if the wife is irresponsible.

Not infrequently, weeks or months later, the man is back in court again, charged with failure to comply with the court's order in the first conviction.

Sometimes he is given a second chance to "catch up on his payments" according to a schedule the judge lays down, then to continue payments in a certain amount, based on his ability to pay.

Sometimes, the failure to comply appears so gross and inexcusable, with so little outlook for compliance, that the man is sent to the roads. This is likely to put the wife and family on the welfare rolls which means that every taxpayer in the county is contributing to their support.

More and more we have been led to the conclusion that these cases should not be tried in the weekly criminal recorders court. They take up a vast amount of the court's time. Solomon himself could not be expected to straighten out the tangled situations in many of these cases. And the court has at its disposal no skilled professional advisor who might be called upon to help these confused and wretched families gain some measure of the understanding and self-knowledge that alone can bring a permanent solution, if there be one, to their dilemmas.

Large cities have domestic relations courts where such cases are handled so that they will not clog the machinery of the regular courts and so that special advice and counseling will be available for the people involved.

It may be that a county the size of Moore could not afford to have such a court, but The Pilot would like to see a study made of the matter with a serious

view to somehow providing a better method of handling domestic relations cases.

It might be possible for the court to hold another day's session, using the same personnel, but having present a domestic relations specialist, psychologist or advisor. Perhaps such a person could serve several counties. Or maybe a domestic relations court could be organized separately from recorders court and could serve more than one county, with the financing shared.

From our observation, Judge J. Vance Rowe in Moore County recorders court handles domestic relations cases commendably and is well known for his good advice to the parties involved. Week after week, in the Monday court, Judge Rowe talks good sense to the hostile, rebellious husbands and wives who come before him in one predicament or another. He is especially solicitous as to the welfare of children and makes every effort he can to see that children, the innocent victims in these cases, are provided for as well as the situation will permit.

We have no fault to find with Judge Rowe's handling of these cases, but we believe he should be relieved of this necessity or else be given more time and more help.

Last week's terrible Hoke County case, in which a father beat his wife to death in the presence of their five children, points up the need for more adequate handling of domestic relations cases.

This man, according to a news item from Raeford, had recently returned from a term on the roads to which he had been sent for an assault on his wife. It was noted that the recorders court judge, in sentencing him to the roads, had recommended a mental examination, but, says the news item, it is doubtful that this was done.

Whether it was done or not, it is clear that this man needed mental counseling, if not prolonged treatment. If the case had come up in a domestic relations court, a skilled advisor might have detected the personality flaw that eventually drove this man to murder and might have seen that he received the proper attention.

What's Going On

If you want to know what's going on in North Carolina, the best source of information is the small town newspaper. The weeklies, the semi-weeklies, and the small dailies that come from county-seat towns all about the State have the grass roots flavor and they mirror the life of their communities as no other medium, or disseminator of news and information, does. The big dailies tell you about the big news, and the big shots, but if you really want to know what the folks are doing, what they are thinking, the progress the towns and the counties are making, go and read the small town local newspaper.

—The Laurinburg Exchange

By MARQUIS CHILDS

Washington Calling . . .

WASHINGTON. — The average taxpayer is hardly concerned with how much of the cost of the operation of his yacht he can write off as a business expense on his income tax return. But for a small and select group at the top of the business pyramid, the remarks made by Commissioner of Internal Revenue T. Coleman Andrews at the American Bar Association convention in Boston had an ominous meaning.



Andrews told the lawyers he was instructing his tax agents to review the tax returns of all large taxpayers who deducted generous amounts for "entertainment." The entertainment allowance in the income tax law accounts for some of the freehand spending of the post-war boom.

The mink coats passed out in return for favors and deducted as business expense were peanuts in comparison to the high, wide and handsome deductions listed in some tax returns. In many instances, Andrews learned after he took over in the Bureau of Internal Revenue, the whole cost of operating yachts and smaller pleasure craft were deducted as business expense. Similarly, the cost of maintaining expensive beach houses in Florida and fishing camps in Maine were written off as entertainment.

The deductions are made for the most part on corporation income tax returns. Thereby the tax paid the government is reduced and the yacht or the pleasure dome by the sea is available for any uses the management decides to put it to.

This is just the point that Andrews has ordered his agents to explore. Where large deductions are made, they have been instructed to ask who was entertained and why. Proof will be required that customers capable of bringing the company business commensurate with such lavish spending were actually guests on the yacht or at the luxury house.

If the owner or the management got most of the benefit, then

the company will be called on to pay taxes on the amount deducted. The use of private airplanes by companies and individuals and deducted as a business expense will also be looked into. Andrews has been informed that at many of the more plush winter and summer resorts private airfields are lined each week end with company planes.

What puts this new drive in a somewhat ironic light is the fact that the Truman Administration, supposedly concerned with the lot of the common man, apparently did not challenge these generous deductions. Andrews, if he really follows through on the policy he has announced, will step on some sensitive Republican toes, including those of generous donors to the party. He has said bluntly that this makes not the slightest difference. If he cannot administer the law impartially, then he will get out.

How much actual increase in revenue can come from a sterner scrutiny of expense deductions, the Bureau cannot say. The law says "ordinary and necessary" costs can be taken off when figuring net income. To this the courts have added the term "reasonable."

Andrews intends to examine another area equally touchy. That is the reported practice of the kickback, often by way of an expense allowance. Excessive amounts for expenses are granted to salesmen and purchasing agents with the understanding that part of this is personal income which they do not report on their tax returns. A course of instruction for revenue agents has been worked out to help them dig this up. The amount realized by the Treasury could be substantial.

Consideration is being given in the Bureau of Internal Revenue to recommending that Congress amend the law covering deductions. In connection with entertainment written off the taxpayer would be required to list the persons entertained. More important, the amendment under consideration would forbid unexplained lump sum deductions paid out to unnamed individuals. Congressional investigations have shown that such sums have gone to fix-

The People Can Rule Wisely Only If They Are Informed

The past week, October 1-8 has been observed throughout the nation as National Newspaper Week during which newspapers, large and small, have explained and reaffirmed the responsibilities of a free press in a democratic country.

Theme of the observance, "Freedom of Information," and its slogan, "An Informed Press Means An Informed People," have drawn comments from a number of distinguished persons, including H. V. Kaltenborn, news analyst and commentator who wrote for National Newspaper Week the following observations on secrecy in government and suppression of information:

By and large secrecy has produced more harm than revelation. Suppression has always been more dangerous than unbridled expression. Therefore, since it is impossible to preserve an exact balance between what should be censored and what can be told, let us always err on the side of free expression.

In a democracy the people rule. They can only rule wisely if they are fully informed. Half knowledge can be just as dangerous as complete ignorance. Most efforts to keep people from knowing result in their getting to know what isn't so. The truth can make us free but misinformation binds us to falsehood.

All of which should teach us to accept wholeheartedly this year's National Newspaper Week slogan: "An informed press means an informed people."

Living with Communism in an atomic age has made us a bit too fearful for our own good. Fear is always a bad counsellor. It helps produce what it seeks to avoid. A press that tells all, presents a far more accurate picture of the world we live in than a press that selects what someone thinks it is good for us to know.

Facing things as they are is the first step in changing them for the better. Revelation must precede reform. Telling us about what is wrong is the mission of a free press in a free country. The exposure of evil is the most direct public service which the press has performed for our people since the first American editor went to jail because he dared to tell the truth.

No one knows better than I that isolated press organs sometimes excuse license in the name of freedom. But here again occasional excess is less harmful than habitual timidity. Those newspapers which some-

times overstep the bounds of good taste or fair play usually do more to keep people informed about malfeasance and corruption than those which do no wrong because they are too little concerned about doing good. There is no appeal to the human heart in self-righteous virtuous neutrality. The Good Book says: "Blow ye hot or cold—for him that is lukewarm will I spew out of mine mouth." Which means that a newspaper ought to have definite policies and opinions which should be expressed freely and forcefully. If the organ of opinion also does its duty in providing full information it helps create the sound public opinion that is the driving force of successful democratic government. Which is tantamount to saying once again that "an informed press means an informed people."

Recently we have suppressed too many atomic facts, "burned" too many "dangerous" books and identified too many soft-headed sentimentalists with Communism. We have kept from the American public a large area of important information about atomic energy developments that have long been known to our enemies. We have regarded as harmful the reading of books which are essential to an understanding of Communism. Do we honestly believe that to know Communism is to love it? We sometimes act as though we do. And because a man is so foolish as to take Communist theory at face value without realising it to Communist practice, does he constitute so great a danger to the rest of us that he must be harassed and ostracized?

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Bookmobile Schedule

Schedule of the Moore County bookmobile for the week, October 12-16, has been announced as follows:

Monday—Routh's service station, Hy. 1 north, 1:15; Cameron post office, 2:45 to 3; Mrs. John

ers and wire pullers.

Commissioner Andrews had antagonized one set of lawyers before he made his Bar Association remarks. He has put through a decentralization of the Bureau to make it possible for a citizen in Salt Lake City or Seattle to settle his tax controversy with the Government in one of the Bureau's seven regional offices without the matter being carried all the way to Washington.

But protests have come to Andrews from the capital's host of tax lawyers who fear they will be deprived of part of their practice. That was apparently behind the statement of Representative DeWitt Hyde, newly-elected Republican from nearby Maryland, who complained wistfully that economy was all well and good but Commissioner Andrews had gone too far in lopping off 1,000 employees of the Bureau in Washington.

Certainly the Bureau was an ideal place for a clean start. For a decade it had been riddled with politics and favoritism. (Copyright, 1953, by UFSyn. Inc.)

A. Phillips' home (community stop), 3 to 3:30; out Red Hill church road with home stops, 3:30 to 4; Lakeview, 4:30 to 5.

Tuesday—Murdockville, 2 to 3:30; Colonial Heights, 4 to 4:45. Wednesday—Davis school, 1 p. m., Westmoore School, 1:15 to 2; Mrs. Lonnie Brewer's home, 2:30; Baldwin's store, 2:45.

Thursday—Carthage Library, 11:30 to 12:30; White Hill route with stops at Davis service station, Wesley Thomas S. S.; around Lamm's Grove church and in White Hill section, 1:30 to 5.

Friday—Robbins Library, 11:30 to 2:30; out Biscoe highway with home stops, 2:30 to 3:30; Bethlehem route, 3:30 to 4:30.

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