



Washington — My activities last week included a very interesting visit to Raleigh where I spoke before the annual meeting of the Raleigh Academy of Medicine, and later visited the General Assembly.

Everyone was most gracious to me. At the Academy of Medicine meeting I enjoyed seeing many of the doctors who have been my friends for a long time. I also had an opportunity to get acquainted with several others I had not met before.

I find that these medical men are taking more interest in public questions and the formulation of public policies which mean so much in the administration of our government.

FIRST, THE SENATE

The next day, when I visited the legislature, I first visited the Senate. I was extended the privileges of the floor and was requested to address the Senators. This gave me an opportunity to congratulate them upon the good reports I had been hearing about the progress being made in the work in that chamber.

Occasionally, well-meaning citizens are unduly critical of legislators without understanding the due processes of law that must be observed if we are to have a government that will properly serve our people. Sometimes there are delays while proposed legislation is being studied carefully. It is far better, of course, to pass only those laws which have been considered carefully than to enact legislation hurriedly on the spur of the moment before the results have been thought out.

THEN, THE HOUSE

Then, I went across to the House of Representatives and was invited to address that group. I felt at home in the House chamber since it was there that I began my legislative career. Somehow it didn't seem so long since 1931, the year I was Speaker of the House.

Quite a few of my old friends are in the present General Assembly. I was, of course, delighted to see them and greatly appreciated the cordiality extended me.

It seemed to me that the men constituting both the House and Senate were serious-minded, and intent upon doing the very best possible job for our State, its people and its various institutions. Naturally there are differences of opinion among them—as there should be in a democracy. North Carolina can well be proud of its legislature.

My visit was most pleasant and I regretted that I had to catch a plane back to Washington before having a chance to see and talk with many of my old friends.

REORGANIZATION

Last Friday the Senate passed the House bill giving the President authority to reorganize the various departments of the national government. The process was not without its confusion.

When the bill was first considered in the House, I understand that President Eisenhower had stated that he would be satisfied with a proposal permitting a simple majority in either the House or the Senate to veto any reorganization plan sent down by the President. But then some of the President's appointees got busy. They suggested that Mr. Eisenhower ought to have the same authority that President Truman had had. This brought on a discussion—and then an argument.

Reorganization plans, as you know, have been advanced by the Hoover Commission—some of them good and some of them not so good. The main question, as I see it, involves how far the legislative branch of our government should go in surrendering its functions, and in turning them over to the President.

I felt that Mr. Eisenhower's original viewpoint was quite correct. As someone said, if any plan he submits isn't good enough to be approved by a sim-

ple majority of those voting in the House or Senate, then probably it should not be forced upon the people.

I felt that the due processes of law, as provided for in the Constitution should be adhered to as far as possible, and I voted for an amendment which would have provided that a simple majority could veto a reorganization plan. That amendment failed, but the bill itself passed (by a voice vote) giving President Eisenhower the same authority that President Truman had.

I believe that legislative processes must be preserved, because when we talk about the President doing something, we are actually talking about some of his appointees doing something. The President cannot possibly do all of the thinking and make all the decisions himself, and there is always the danger of any President's appointee abusing the powers delegated to the President. This, I feel, we must always be on guard against.

A REMINDER

I wanted to mention again the gathering of Democrats in Raleigh on February 28 for the Jefferson-Jackson Day Dinner. This year I feel that I can particularly recommend the event. Senator Richard B. Russell will, I believe, make one of the greatest speeches of his career.

1953 Vacation Travel Expected To Top 1952

Reports from the National Park Service and State Highway Commission showing record tourist travel to North Carolina attractions in 1952 dovetailed with experience of the State Travel Bureau, which had its busiest year in servicing 176,041 in-

quiries—49,769 more than in 1951—and in sending out 902,414 booklets, maps and pamphlets both in answer to direct mail inquiries and to 936 travel and information bureaus in the United States and abroad.

The American Automobile Association estimated tourist volume for the first quarter of 1953 will be 13 per cent above the comparable period in 1952.

To participate in this business, promotional activities are being stepped up by both public and private interests, making competition keener for the travel dollar than ever before. The competition is broader than ever before, as it is not confined to the tourist industry itself. Outside factors—the booming television and air

conditioning industries, for instance—are now real competition to the domestic travel industry. The rapid expansion of lower-cost air travel to

foreign countries is also to be reckoned with.

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