



THE CHARLOTTE NEWS

And Evening Chronicle

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MONDAY, OCTOBER 12, 1942

Free-For-All

Competition for Manpower Goes on Unregulated

Senator Taft is one of the few men of any consequence in Washington who has shown a disposition to anticipate the nation's impending crisis in manpower and to deal with it before hopeless confusion engulfs us. It was he who, when Selective Service displayed its concern over the vanishing reserve of unmarried draft registrants, induced Congress to write down the order in which men with dependents should be called. He has proposed now a merger of Selective Service and the War Manpower Commission into one supreme manpower authority charged with co-ordinating the demands and furnishing the supply of personnel for the armed forces, agriculture, industry and essential civilian occupations.

Something of the kind badly needs to be done now, and before 1943 progresses very far will become imperative. The 3,000,000 men of 18 to 45 years of age, and many of them are of first importance, naturally, but it is closely followed by the compelling necessity of maintaining war production, of feeding the soldiers and keeping the civilian population going. Only the other day a representative of the National Retail Grocers Association told a Senate committee that "actual hunger may come to millions of Americans before the Spring of 1944."

The Administration has put its reliance, belatedly, in price and wage control, nursing the pious hope that somehow sufficient supply of labor would gravitate to the occupations and sections where it was needed. But the competition between armed forces, industry, agriculture and essential civilian occupations continues unabated. Selective Service, with its ultimate authority, and the war industries, with their claims on the partnership, threaten members of the partnership.

The Secret

Our AEF Smokes Cigars: You'll Never Know How Many

The most intriguing military secret we've been able to rake up in an exhaustive search has to do with cigars. You're a party to recognize the big total of cigars now being shipped abroad for the comfort of our armed forces, you're aiding the enemy. It's a sort of smoke screen.

We hope that we have more important secrets these days, but don't expect to find one more appealing. We almost saw the frenzied Berlin conference, if the Nazis were tipped off on this one, puzzling over the number of troops required to smoke so and so many mild Havanas. This would be one for which Hitler's intelligence wasn't prepared.

Back home the punch is being felt. Rationing is being done on items they call an "informal manner." Favorite brands are disappearing here and there because manufacturers are limited to present machinery, and are being employees to the services and higher-paying industries. The home scene is fastening its eyes on the world abroad catches eye.

Wedged among tanks, guns, planes and food in the packed holds of our ships ride the cigars. On the shores were many a "careless enemy in his hands" has been found. They can puff the good blue smoke. For them, the few comforts of home are more than many. For them we wish many a satisfying after-dinner pause before meditation comes. But the total, nobody knows, nobody knows. It's safe enough to tell the enemy of the tremendous convoys of troops going over. But their smokes are nobody's business.

One of our own post-war aims will be to find out what was what in the long-filler business.

New Tack

Germans Give Up On Stalingrad And Leave Russia A Victory

The shift of Hitler's armies away from Stalingrad may mean no good news for the Russians and their allies, but according to Whitehall the fact that the ruined city still stands is a cause for encouragement. The deep defenses are now a matter of a few weeks on the Eastern front, and the savagery of the assault deeper in the Cau-

caus is probably destined to set the stage on new, more favorable battlefields. Whatever is the fate of the new thrust, the Soviets have won a great victory simply by holding the remains of their Volga bastion.

This war cannot see another such determined German drive. The gamble for Stalingrad cost Hitler the flower of his armies, the best of his arms. He is certain to continue paying that price when he is forced to meet another Allied army on another front. Stalingrad, long singled out as a possible turning point of the war, seems actually that today. For, though the new action at Mordok may mean eventual conquest of the whole region, the city itself exacted a sacrifice of the invaders far greater than its own worth.

For this, the staving off a supposedly invincible army with inferior equipment and manpower and fighting spirit, Joseph Stalin has his right to demand Allied assistance. The shift from Stalingrad does not remove the Russian danger, but it shows a German failure for the first time since Moscow in the last bitter Winter. That great battle, perhaps the greatest ever fought by man, is already a turning point. The Nazi horde did not retreat, but only veered aside. That, if Britain and America can act soon, will be enough.

The Slap

AFL Spurns, in Defiance, British Plea To Work With Russia

British labor unions, still far from perfection, have long been fit subjects for world models. Working under closer supervision, taking a large part in active government, forging greater, wiser gains, battling Conservatives for the masses, and not a group, they have helped give Great Britain a new vision for the post-war world.

For a long while, British Labor has headed toward a "practical, working unity" with Russian trade unions. Now Jack Tanner, head of the world's richest union (Amalgamated Engineering) has come to America to ask AFL to adopt the same sort of attitude toward Soviet workers. AFL listened, applauded heartily and merely politely, and turned him down. President William Green told why.

The AFL, he said, was dead against totalitarianism in any form, and would have none of the dictators, in whatever land they ruled. Russia they admired, but they ruled. Russia they admired for her courageous stand, yet, but there they drew the line. AFL will cooperate completely in the war effort, but will in no way work with Soviet trade unions. It will not risk being pinked by Communism.

Not only are the British unions far ahead of our own in their long list of gains, in time of service and in public behavior they have left AFL dangerously behind in their attitude toward our fightingest ally. American Labor holds its own gains and its place in the sun, it will not budge toward a possible contribution to the world ahead, the world the United Nations have been talking about.

President Green posed again an old, but rarely unspoken question: What's to happen when the democracies sit down at the peace table with Russia to plan the new world order? American Labor's answer, at least that section represented by AFL, is already on the cards. The Russian sacrifice must be enough to have Russia sacrifice most heavily of all in the struggle with the enemy; after that, we're through. Fight with us and for us, but don't work with us.

The answer must have bitterly disappointed Britain. No one has to guess the effect on the cooperation, cooperation will involve in bloody Russia.

No one knows what the Russians called, in disparagement, by their time; "Nazi" would have been perfect, but too soon.

Maybe it's only our nerves; or are there an unusually large number of citizens trying to hunk the country out of its traffic jams?

An ace band leader has lost a succession of six saxophone players to the armed forces. No sooner is a new tooter signed than he blows.

Toward a New World!



Willkie Vs. Roosevelt

Diplomacy Yelled Out Loud

By Paul Mallon

WASHINGTON IT LOOKS like Mr. Roosevelt has pulled the official props out from under Mr. Willkie, and made himself plain to Mr. Stalin, surely, of course, but nevertheless plain.

After Messrs. Stalin and Willkie said "what they damn well please" about a second front and the paucity of our materiel, the State Department called in Maxim Litvinoff, the Russian ambassador, and formally signed an extension of the Lend-Lease agreement for one year more, an agreement which, incidentally, specifies the quantity of materiel we are to send to the Russians each month, and also, incidentally, an agreement which we have not been able to fulfill.

Then Mr. Roosevelt suddenly called back from Moscow the ambassador there, Admiral Standley, and also, strangely enough, the military and naval attaches.

Now, Mr. Roosevelt has just had a personal representative in Moscow, Mr. Willkie, who is on his way back, with all the news from Stalin, by a roundabout route. The officials here say the return of Admiral Standley and attaches is just a routine item, as is the renewal of the Russian agreement.

For matters that are routine, these ten seem exceptionally provocative. Officially, you would think that the President is casting additional doubt upon Mr. Willkie by asking Admiral Standley to return, and also by answering Mr. Stalin's complaint on materiel by solidifying his unfulfilled promise with a new official agreement.

Beyond that, the routine, although gets dry and devious. It seems to the Mr. Willkie and Mr. Stalin are really aiming the shafts they directed at us, upon Mr. Churchill.

All Mr. Willkie said, new and important, was that the Allies and the Near Easterners did not really believe we meant what we said, when we promised assistance for all people after the war. What that really means is that the British Empire must clear its throat for those people that it does not intend to exert in the post-war world the imperial control it attempted to hold, up to now, in these areas.

I do not believe anyone here has empirical designs on the post-war world. Indeed, our enemies had not even accused us of that.

Furthermore, the old design of the British Empire has been effectively broken up by the war. The clash of conflict and threat of disaster has resulted in an appreciation in London, and elsewhere, that remote colonies are truly independent in every natural respect. They had to defend themselves, rather than relying on the mother country.

Nevertheless, the Atlantic and the Near Easterners on our side still have a suspicion, according to Willkie, that when the emergency is over, London will attempt to exert its former will.

As I see it, no resentment should be felt against him here for having felt that. In reality, he is only opening the way for continuing London assurances that the will of these peoples will be met.

Aside from this, the only fault that can be found with Willkie's statement, as I see it, is that he implied our military leaders and those of the British, needed prodding to institute a second front. Maybe they do and maybe they don't. Certainly prodding can do no harm.

Other than this, Mr. Willkie has only offended some of the old ladies by saying "damn."

This next statement in this situation is up to London. Look at this perplexing situation also from Stalin's side. The stuff that has been given out by Moscow is excellent concrete Russian propaganda. It relieves Mr. Stalin of responsibility for what has happened and diverts the attention of the local Russian from their own selfishness.

Personally, I recommend that you consider it impeccable diplomacy, and skip it, for the present.

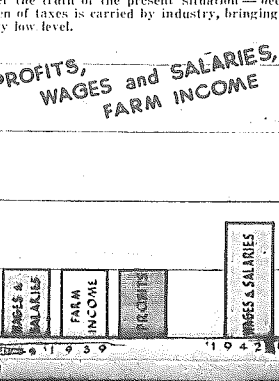
Visitin' Round

CLAP HANDS, CHILLIN'! (Bailey's Camp Item, Leader News-Topic) The people throughout this section are getting ready for the old time molasses boiling. And out what fun to boil down molasses!

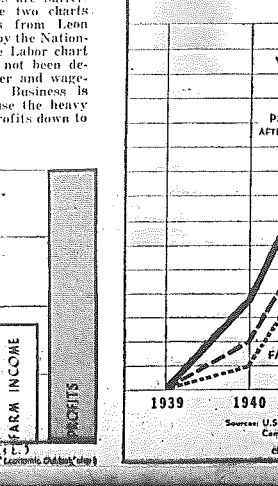
Who's On Top?

Business, Labor Or The Farm Group

WITH the national income soaring to a record high of \$112,200,000,000, special-interest groups are still trying valiantly to prove that the lion's share of the new gains are going to the other fellow—and that they themselves are suffering. We think this is clearly illustrated by these two charts. (The one below prepared by CIO's mathematicians from Leon Henderson figures; the one at the right prepared by the National Association of Manufacturers.) Note that the Labor chart shows profits soaring above all else (taxes have not been deducted) while the Business chart shows the farmer and wage-earner dominating poor old capital. In this case Business is nearer the truth of the present situation—because the heavy burden of taxes is carried by industry, bringing profits down to a very low level.



THE PROFIT BOGGAN



Time For Reform

Outmoded Taxes

By Raymond Clapper

WASHINGTON IF President Roosevelt and Secretary of the Treasury Morgenthau would come around, Congress could adopt some plan by which we could pay income taxes as we earn them. This is badly needed, as seems to be recognized in most quarters around Washington except at the White House and the Treasury.

With taxes as high as they must be now, it doesn't make sense to wait until next year to pay taxes on what we earn this year. It is dangerous. Everybody knows it. But the White House and the Treasury don't seem ready to do anything about it.

The common sense of paying as you earn is recognized by men like Vice-President Wallace, by Leon Henderson, and by Chairman Eccles and his associates at the Federal Reserve Board. These are complete New Deal authorities. Yet Secretary Morgenthau has blurted it. One story is that this opposition arises because one of his tax experts would get a favorable break if the pay-as-you-go plan were adopted and that this expert does not wish to be in the position of advocating a plan that might ease his own personal tax burden.

A Congressional joint committee is being set up to consider a pay-as-you-go plan for prompt adoption after the pending tax bill is passed. This committee can do a real service by diving some scheme through that will end the ridiculous system of waiting until next year to pay on what you earned this year.

It didn't matter back in the early days of the income tax, when only a few thousand persons paid and when the tax was a trivial item. But the new taxes probably will start by taking 10 cents out of your first taxable dollar—and they will go on up from there. Many persons will be paying a fourth, a third, a half, or even a larger share of their income in taxes from now on.

It is only theory that says people can save up their tax money in advance so they will have it on hand to pay in the following year. When you try to pay this year's taxes and save up for next year's at the same time—when you try to double up and in effect pay two years' taxes in one year—it just doesn't work out for most people.

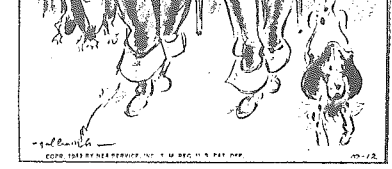
Men who go into the Army or Navy or into Government jobs, or who are shifted under the manpower allocation to jobs that mean sharp reductions in salaries, just won't be able to pay their taxes on high earnings this year. Nor will garage owners and others whose businesses have disappeared. The theory that people can save up taxes a year in advance will break down on the rock of widespread non-payment of taxes. And you can't get a man in jail for being unable to pay his taxes. The Government will just do without the revenue.

If we ever take a sudden slump, such as might occur at the end of the war, the Government would have a pretty time trying to collect its year-late taxes earned in the big war years.

Above all, the compelling argument for getting rid of this archaic year-late tax collection is the fact that the income tax has now become a mass tax. Treasury experts expect 38,000,000 persons will be filing income-tax returns. Present plans for collecting 5 or 10 per cent at the source are totally inadequate as a pay-as-you-go method because that only forces a partial doubling up of tax payments by small wage-earners who are even less able to double up than the higher-bracket people.

What we need is some stabilization in taxes. We have had to come to it in prices, to prevent the economy of the country being wrecked by violent fluctuations. Now when we start the income tax at 10 per cent and apply it to reach practically every working person in the country, we simply cannot continue the old system of new hit-and-miss income-tax laws every year. Taxes have become too large an item in the family budget to be subjected to such continuous whimsy.

People are ready to pay high taxes. They know it must be done. But in such an uncertain future as everybody faces, most people would be better off paying as they can instead of a year later.



"Your Jap plane score was pretty good up to the time you got your leave—but I hope you're satisfied your old man can still beat you shooting ducks!"

Quote. Unquote.

Unless proper remedial steps are taken, we are heading into something approaching atomic hunger within the next 18 months. —Rosa Marie Kiefer, Secretary National Retail Grocers Association.

There is a general instinct that something is brewing on the side of the Western powers. More signs of the spirit of general action are evident. —L. Gartin, London Journalist.

There is a crying need today for better teamwork between management and labor and better teamwork between states and government. —A. E. of I. President William Green.

Hoarding gasoline is extremely dangerous. The average person would be just as safe with a supply of TNT in his home. —National Safety Council.

At this moment Britain's war production per head of population is greater than that of any other major power on earth. —Lord Halifax, British ambassador to U. S.

Bible Thought

A converted sinner highly honored. But Mary Magdalene devoutly visited his tomb. She was first at the tomb and last at the cross. How often do you visit early on the first day of the week, he appeared first in Mary Magdalene. Mark 16:9.