

How To Lose A War

From The Charlotte Labor Journal

TWENTY DOLLARS a day is a pretty good wage. But it doesn't mean much if your groceries cost you \$30 a day. To catch up with your grocery bill, you demand a wage increase of \$10 a day. But by the time you get it, your grocery bill has jumped to \$40. So you are still one jump behind. That is inflation.

This is why President Roosevelt is trying desperately to prevent inflation. He knows what it does to the working man. Wages never catch up with prices when inflation starts. It is beginning to look as though the President must have some intelligent cooperation from labor if he is going to stop the race between prices and wages.

Ordinarily a working man doesn't have to worry about things like this. He hires a Congressman, pays him \$10,000 a year and expects him to give intelligent cooperation to the President to prevent such economic catastrophes as inflation.

This year, however, the average working man hasn't got a very bright Congressman. So you had better force your own Congressman until election day—and start figuring this out for yourself.

As things stand now, the Congressmen think they can get themselves a lot of votes if they scuttle the President's program and give farmers more money for their crops. This, of course, means that you will pay more for your groceries. But the Congressman tells you you can get a pay raise by the farmers' crops. He knows, but he doesn't tell you that you can't increase your pay as fast as the prices of groceries rise, for one reason and another.

He figures that by the time you wake up to the fact that you are sliding down the inflation slide, the election will be over and you can't do anything about the thing that he is doing for you. But President Roosevelt knows what it is all about. And when he says that wages must be stabilized, he is trying to protect what you now have. If this inflation you will lose what you have.

President Roosevelt is making an emergency move to prevent inflation. He is trying to protect labor and labor should be intelligent enough to help him. When the war is over, we can get some of the bugs out of our economic system, provided we win. The best way not to win is to disrupt production and destroy our economic balance by inflation.

Inflation would be a forerunner of military defeat. It must be avoided at all costs, because, if we lose the war we lose everything we are fighting for. If the Russians in peacetime are having anything to say about your wages, your hours or your working conditions, you will do what they tell you and you'll say "Yes, sir" when you do it. It would be a lot smarter to lose a pay raise now than to lose the whole pay check later.

Is Stalin Waiting?

The Bear Trap

By Paul Mallon

A WEEKLY magazine sold faster than sugar here when it came out with a story predicting Russia will defeat Hitler in 1942. The idea of the article was that the Russians have secret armies of several hundred divisions, and one of four million men is supposed to be about ready.

The author, Pierre Van Paassen, an eminent analyst of foreign affairs, also claimed the Russians have secret armies of about 750,000 men and that the German U-boat fleet, and therefore are in good shape.

There is no one here who does not hope Mr. Van Paassen is correct, but more competent authorities are encountering difficulty in accepting his suggestion that the Russian retreat this time is a ruse.

The Don River basin, which has fallen into Nazi hands contains 75 per cent of the coal, 60 per cent of the iron ore, 85 per cent of the sugar and 95 per cent of manganese. Mines and sugarfields cannot be moved.

In peacetime, the Reds sold 25 per cent of their oil from the Caucasus, which is now just beyond Hitler's reaching fingers. They produced 300,000 barrels of oil a day which 400,000 came from the Caucasus.

They are now supposed to have saved in storage 1,600,000 barrels, which would be 200 days of a peacetime supply. This could be made to last somewhat longer now with supplies from newly-developed Ural wells.

It is no doubt true they have 4,000,000 fresh troops or more in reserve, but the equipment of these is questionable. It is no secret that they are long on manpower and short on material.

Anyone who wants to think they are fooling, thus will have difficulty convincing the proper authorities here who assume a much graver attitude toward the Russian situation.

A late check on German oil, incidentally places their war use in active operations at 400,000 barrels a day. They are getting about 100,000 from Rumania, 45,000 from Poland, Albania and Germany.

But their synthetic production in addition to these supplies, still leaves them about 50 per cent short. They are getting about 200,000 barrels a day, which shows how badly they need the Caucasus fields.

One Justice, One Enemy

The idea of Mr. Roosevelt appointing Chief Justice Stone to head a rubber survey out of the news fast, for a very good reason. Justice Stone firmly rejected the President's suggestion.

More politics than Jim Farley will defeat Mr. Roosevelt in the choice of a Democratic gubernatorial candidate at the coming New York State convention. As Mayor La Guardia has suggested, Farley is perhaps the best delegate pick in the world today and he stands early.

In the New York delegation in Congress, however, there is a belief that Mr. Roosevelt will throw in Federal pressure (promises of jobs and Federal appropriations) to make enough delegates change their mind. If he goes to work actively on this basis, they say Farley will find himself facing too much power. Until such pressure begins to appear, however, the odds favor Farley.

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A Shakeup?

Congress Begins Yell For Improved High Command
Some of those quiet little Washington communiquees, of the type which often presages the coming of the biggest storms, have been whispering of brass-hattery in the Army and Navy. Veteran correspondents, as yet only sensing the growth of a trend and no story, have given the news a slight amplification. That there is to be a major shift within our own High Command seems probable from the signs.

Bottleneck

Civic Clubs Committee Spots Mecklenburg's Crime Jam
When the Association of Civic Clubs created a committee to study crime against and within Mecklenburg County, at once it became as inevitable as peas on a luncheon club plate that this committee, soon or late, would have to come down to cases with Solicitor John Carpenter. There could be no escaping it. The process of law enforcement and punishment in Mecklenburg County, as well as in Mecklenburg County, except, of course, by Federal agencies, culminates in Solicitor Carpenter's court.

Soon after, Oklahoma's Josh Lee fired both barrels at Army and Navy alike and was joined in the full chorus by Congressman Lyndon Johnson of Texas. Just back from a tour of inspection of the fighting in the Far East, started talking about "brass hats" for the first time in his career.

The steps proposed to bring this about are for Mecklenburg to be made a district unto itself, which would require action by the Legislature, and for the State's salary of \$4,500 (plus \$500 for expenses) to be supplemented by the County so that truly competent lawyers could be induced to take the place. (Remember on that last point, by the way, that the better politician would be as likely to get the elective job of Solicitor as the better lawyer; but the matter of salary is of no immediate importance and may be left until after Mecklenburg has obtained the right to name its Solicitor.)

Offensive Millions

One Good Punch at Hitler Presents Staggering Cost

The cheapest known method for the Allies to strike at Germany and the German-held continent is by air, where comparatively light, but flying destruction to Hitler, though it may bring many a tactical blemish is not cheap. No, sir. Consider, for example, the recent British raid on Duesseldorf, made by an estimated 500 bombers, with loss of 21. Based on the cost of the operational losses on American experience, the price ran out of sight.

Both the big armed services were publicly accused of stalling, bogging down to the eyes in red tape, so that they could not see the need for initiative and up-to-date warfare. Both commands, the plain inference was, were going about as they pleased, and making plans, The Congressmen, and many an echo they picked up during the shouting, wanted new blood, young commanders who could prosecute the war with imagination.

If the signs are right, changes are coming. Washington, from generation to generation, has heard many such cries, and many of them have resulted in complete overhauling of war direction. This time, because Johnson is the only responsible accuser who has seen Americans in battle areas, the figure he led by that name, is in military expert, but while he was watching the war burn in the East, practical military men told him their story. He was still sizzling when he reached home.

The round trip to Duesseldorf was approximately 600 miles, and the motor of a big bomber will burn a hundred gallons of aviation gasoline an hour. Given a minimum of four hours in the air, the hundreds of British bombers must have consumed at least 450,000 gallons of gas during the raid. At a cost of fifty cents per gallon, including transportation from the U. S., the gas bill alone was \$225,000. Those three tons of fuel cost \$2,455,000—and doesn't include the cost of the many repairs, maintenance of fields and pay of personnel, the tanker losses in import of fuel, oil, greases, bomb loads, ammunition or the time of high-ranking officers.

There is always caution to be used in switching leaders in war-time, and the possibility of endangering a cause. But if responsible leaders in the field find Army and Navy conditions so confused that they bombard an inspecting Congressman with their pleas, action is indicated. And there should be no reason for paying the price of safety.

Double Talk

Ickes and OPA Confuse Us Again on National Rationing

No sooner does an echo die in Washington than another official voice takes it up, twists it into reverse, and sends it again. From the President down there have been conflicting estimates, guesses, and hopes of a pure strain. Latest head-on collision between estimators of a national resource has brought complete confusion to civilians. Honored Harold Ickes says that the spread of rationing and gasoline rationing is not necessary. Joe Dean and Leon Henderson of OPA have recommended national restriction to President Roosevelt.

They all come over on the first course in January. They live with the officers in Nissen huts in one of the camps, but some of them keep a room in Belfast also. They all wear uniforms, and so do the visiting American and British correspondents who run over from England occasionally. Despite my civilian clothes I've been getting saluted all over Ireland. That's because I ride around in an Army jeep and wear an officer's-type trench-coat that I got in London last year. Sergeants and soldiers along the road, apparently think my dilapidated civilian hat is just the whim of some eccentric general, so they take no notice and salute themselves to death.

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And Now The Army Salutes For A Reporter

By Ernie Pyle

BELFAST, NORTHERN IRELAND
NOW we start with the United States Army of Northern Ireland. There is a lot of it, and it is scattered all over the place. Since military security forbids me to write specifically about any place, troop unit or station, or to identify them in any way, I have mapped out a new technique; you might call it, of working. The Army has graciously provided me with a jeep and a driver, and I am free to go anywhere I please. So I'm spending four days each week with the troops, all over Northern Ireland. One night in one camp and the next night in another. Most of the time I live and eat with the enlisted men rather than the officers. At the end of four days I come back to Belfast with my head full of stuff and sit for three days holed up in a hotel room writing the pieces I've gathered. Then when I've got everything down on paper and sent it off to America, I blow a huge, common the trusty jeep, and go snorting out over the countryside again. Remember, you can drive clear across Northern Ireland in three hours.

All the columns in the next few weeks will have to be rather generalized. Only how and then can I write about an individual specifically, and never about a certain group specifically. But through it all, and despite the generalizations, I think I can eventually draw you an honest picture of what life is like for these boys over here who form the vanguard of a great expeditionary force that is building up in this part of the world.

Platform Of The People

Realism Against Vice

Spotlight: Sun inside the churchyard, "Soldiers Center" - Welcome.
Editors: Two sleeping soldiers who had brewed the lion picture and were sprawled out upon the sacred grass while other curious men peered in and wondered they should invade the sacred last-free precincts of the spirits.
There's yours for Charlotte, "The Friendly City." - E. L. MOORE.
Charlotte.
What Is Blood To Be Mixed?
Editor: The News: About a month ago I read an article in your paper saying that some South Carolina people, talking about mixing the blood from white and Negro races into one blood bank, had been told by our soldiers who are wounded on the battlefields.
I shocked me very much, and I spoke to several of my friends about it. They said they couldn't believe it was true, but a letter to your editor of July 28 from William Edgerton of Guilford College, N. C., brought it up again.
So, getting down to brass tacks: As a citizen with one son-in-law already in the service and another son-in-law and myself registered, I want to know if this is true. If the blood from both races being mixed into one blood bank?
Charlotte, N. C.
(Note: The Red Cross denies that blood is being mixed, and that the idea of mixing blood was checked out by the mixing.

Side Glances

Some Textile Workers Happy
Editors, The News:
I read a letter on your editorial page recently about us people who work in the textile plants at Rockingham. Maybe we are asleep, but we won't go around trying to start trouble with the war on, and we have enough to think about without getting into a union.
And one thing for sure—we don't give our money to a union. We keep it for ourselves. I don't see anybody down at the plant where I work starving. As a matter of fact, we have pretty nice homes of our own. And our boss gives us a raise every once in a while. We have one coming up now.
I hope Mr. Jackson knows what people call a man who starts trouble in times like these.
—MRS. EVA ORRANT,
EAM Rockingham, N. C.
TODAY'S BIBLE THOUGHT
If we want rich harvests we must diligently prepare for them. Spiritual blessings do not come from the text alone, but from early harvests do. Doth the plowman plow all day to sow? Doth he open and break the clods of his ground?—Isiah 28:24.

