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And Evening Chronicle

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THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 1942

Reconstruction

Glimpse of the Boom Of the Post-War Era

Something like a vista of an active, pleasant future was offered in the National Resources Planning Board's study of the home-construction outlook after the war. If there is anything that the war has done for this country, it is to have a job to do, to be busy. And the same taken, there is an immense amount of work to be done, that is housing.

Until war brought about shortages in materials and labor, private contractors were doing a part of this job. The FHA's aid. But they had hardly scratched the surface of the demand that exists even in the \$3,000-\$5,000 price range. The bulk of the demand for private housing lies below the \$3,000 mark. The United States Housing Authority, backed by our two local low-income housing developments, has spent a good deal of public funds and put up quite a few structures. But the signs are that the housing future of the country does not lie in everlasting be hives, which is to say in impersonal apartment houses. People want homes. Particularly in cities of less than metropolitan status do they want homes; and there's plenty of ground on which to build them.

It is quite helpful to have a National Resources Planning Board taking cognizance of the whole housing field, and it is to be hoped, especially, that costly and short-sighted practices within the building trade, such as price-agreements and labor restraints, will be eliminated by Federal action. That would be wholeheartedly helpful. But we hold the most serious of our own. We hold the development that is bound to come about, (2) that it is an undertaking of such magnitude that only private industry can essay it, and (3) that each community will have to generate its own housing and selling campaigns, possibly under the general supervision of some local body as a local housing authority, but the housing boom is coming, never far.

Baruch and his aides, though revealing a dangerous shortage in our military stocks, and the lack of resources for immediate civilian needs, definitely proposed that our essential back-home transportation system be cared for at the earliest possible moment. Where Henderson had given no hint of relief, and even indirectly predicted doom, the new picture of cars and tires, the committee wanted more rubber given to the public—when possible.

Henderson has proceeded on his way, whooping that only seven million of the nation's cars would be left on the road at the end of next year. No civilian transportation, under that system, could have been regarded as important. Witness Mecklenburg's ration of 30 passengers per car tire per month. True, Henderson was faced with a shortage, but his attitude, even had our position improved, showed that civilian needs would continue to suffer.

Reconstruction

County Takes the Cash And Merit Plan Too

In the beginning the County Commissioners, like the City Council, shied away from the Merit Plan for the County Health Department. This week, however, the County Commissioners weighed the proposition again, balanced the \$3,192 which the County would receive from State and Federal funds against the \$840 more which would have to be paid in salaries to employees in the County Health Department. Not particularly liking it, they went ahead anyhow and arranged to sign up for the money and the Merit Plan.

The City's stake is a good bit larger, somewhere in the neighborhood of \$20,000 for the ensuing year. To get the aid, it will have to swallow the Merit Plan. The Merit Plan at this stage of its development is an unfinished and an untested product, but inasmuch as it is formulated by the State itself, the chances are that, if it is not now workable, it will be made workable, and that, if it is now objectionable, it will be made unobjectionable. At any rate, for the City to sign up for a year would probably work no irreparable damage in the City Health Department. Not to sign up would either cost local taxpayers the money or have to impair the public health service.

The Council is unanimously against the Merit Plan, which indicates that there must be something radically wrong with it. That much will have to be admitted. There are \$20,000 worth wrong with it. That is the question.

Clean-Up Man

Fulenwider Leaves County's Rationing Program in Order

Latest of the civilian soldiers to leave his post in Mecklenburg's wartime economy is George O. Fulenwider, and before he disappears into private life again, we want to fire for him the editorial salute. City and County alike owe him a debt of gratitude.

When Fulenwider became County Rationing Administrator some three months ago the program was so badly started that the public had become first nervous, then panicky. Feeling the first stab of criticism, citizens ran into blind alleys in board offices when they



"As future citizens, we must think every day about the great tasks we face in readjusting the world after the war!"

Change Of Masters

By Raymond Clapper

WASHINGTON

ORD STRABOLGI has proposed in England that President Roosevelt be invited to arbitrate on India. It is hard to see how that would help.

Arbitration, mediation or good offices would be out of the question while the Churchill Government keeps its mind closed and hugs the illusion that India is still there just as Kipling left it.

London's mind is closed in the same die-hard, bull-through attitude that has all but destroyed the white man in the East. It is the same attitude that said the Atlantic Charter did not apply to India and thereby gave Gandhi his most inflammatory talking point. It is the same attitude that rejected Chinese offers to send troops in to help the British in Malaya and also Burma until too late. The appalling fact is that this attitude could persist after it has had such devastating effects in contributing to Allied defeat elsewhere in the East.

Furthermore, the attitude of officials here is so critical of present British policy that they could scarcely be considered imperial arbiters. They have sought quietly to persuade London to take a more open-minded attitude toward India and have had no luck whatever. In fact recent Churchill's stiff-necked speech the other day could be regarded as an attempt to end further meddling from Washington. He tries to make India a closed issue.

The utterances of Mr. Churchill and of L. R. Amery, Secretary for India, reveal an attitude little different from that which Hitler displays toward his conquered peoples. It is the opposite of everything that we profess to hope for out of this war.

But put aside such long-distance questions. Mr. Churchill gives a Jap attack on India is imminent. We can hope he is wrong. But it would be a dismal prospect to try to fight the Japs in the midst of a sudden and embittered population in India which is now being given a dose of the old-fashioned whipping post. India's new leaders are in jail and the announced policy is to break up the Congress Party, which leads the Indian nationalist movement. Elmer Davis can blather on the Four Freedoms in his foreign propaganda broadcasts but they get you to the whipping post in India.

We have seen native populations let down or give aid to the Jap invader. A man will fight to protect a friend but will stand idly by when those whom he cares little about are in danger. He will even find a grim satisfaction in seeing allies whom he dislikes getting the worst of it. That is an accepted rule in the East and one which is preached but which is not being followed.

The noble generalities of the Atlantic Charter subscribed by in India have some real prospect to be as weapons of war if Mr. Churchill has the right theory. We figure that Hitler and the Japs will lose because the conquered peoples will rise to reinforce Allied forces as soon as we are able to move in, the oppressed peoples will help our side. We have seen in Russia and China, in contrast to Malaya and Burma, that people fight desperately when they are free to do so. That is a fact which cannot be denied. It is just a change of masters that is involved.

India has the third largest population in the world. Whether any more conciliatory policy would produce a fighting spirit such as China has is undoubtedly a gamble. But the present policy is not doing it. That is a reality. It is disrupting war production, breeding saboteurs and making more difficult everything that American troops are in India to do.

Through Other Eyes

Tom Jimison's Tar Heel Crusade

By Pete McKnight
In The Baltimore Evening Sun

2,600 patients, that psychiatry was not practiced, that the patients received merely "custodial care."

From all over the State came scores of pitiful letters from former patients of "from relatives of patients," telling the same story over and over and over—neglect, cruelty, bad food, harsh confinement, dirt, filth. The News carried an interview with a young wife, who had been "railroaded" quite legally into the hospital by her husband, describing her humiliation there. The volume of complaint became a flood, filling the "Letters-to-the-editor" columns of the Charlotte News and other papers, and Gov. J. M. Broughton's mail box, to overflowing.

Then the chief executive moved. As the hospital's board of directors jumped in with an "investigation," their own, Broughton put his foot down, appointed an impartial committee to probe the charges and make recommendations. To it he named: Marshall T. Sprague, of Durham, a former Superior Court judge, chairman; Word H. Wood, head of Charlotte's American Trust Company; Dr. Wingate M. Johnson, of Winston-Salem, prominent medical leader; L. C. Offord, liberal leader of the Hickory Record; Mrs. E. L. McKee, State legislator from Blythe; and as counsel to the committee, Charles H. Hixey, able Greensboro attorney.

The Governor gave his committee full rein. He asked it to probe: (1) The physical equipment, heating and ventilation, sleeping and eating facilities, provisions for fresh air, sunshine and exercise; (2) the security of the food and its quality; (3) the adequacy and competency of the staff and the efficiency of the medical treatment; (4) the competency of the attendants and their treatment of patients; (5) the attitude and conduct of the superintendent; (6) any other matters which might be helpful.

The exhaustive findings covered over twenty-five pages of typewritten material and touched upon every phase of the hospital's activity. Results of the investigation, given at length earlier in the document, were reflected in its recommendations, some of which follow:

That certain buildings are "fire-traps" and should be modernized or else be no longer used to house patients; that all buildings be accredited; that open courts be built so patients may get fresh air, sunshine and exercise; that additional kitchen facilities be provided to improve the quality of the food; that facilities for occupational, vocational and recreational therapy be provided; that supplies of milk and fresh vegetables be increased and that a greater variety of better prepared meals be served; that the number of nurses and attendants, their salary and their training be greatly increased; that patients receive better supervision of their mental and physical condition, and that military confinement be not used as a means of punishment.

"In his story he told how the officials of the hospital tossed aside all complaints as 'delusions.' He described the low salary scale for male and female attendants and the resulting mistreatment and physical neglect which the patients received at the hands of these ignorant, ill-trained employees. He showed how the patients were not possibly given adequate medical attention even to the bodily ailments of

The Danger Lessens

Japs Slowing Down

By Paul Mellon

WASHINGTON

THE Japs wormed their tricky way through the Owen Stanley Mountain Pass, and have hidden themselves in holes and trees almost on the rim of Port Moresby, but no one here is very much worried about them going much farther.

The hard air bombing blow, which General MacArthur threw at their air bases last Sunday and Monday, has confirmed our superiority in the air throughout that whole area. The Australian land force, defending our vital New Guinea base, should be strong enough to cope with anything the Japs can now start on the ground.

When and if they come out of their holes, they must also face heavy strafing and bombing from our free-flying air fleets.

The situation is tense, but perhaps not as dangerous as the maps suggest, or as the Australians fear.

Hitler's Next Stop

ASTRAKHAN is likely to be the next Nazi objective in Russia, after Stalingrad.

The bulk of Hitler's great force, accumulated for the conquest of the key city of the Volga River, is apt to be split into two parts, one to defend his dangerous northern flank, just above the city, and the other to sweep on down the Volga to Astrakhan, at the mouth.

The military situation seems to require such detail. No lull in the fighting can therefore be anticipated.

Hitler's hold on Stalingrad will always have to be protected by a heavy defense line just north of the city, until he is able to push eventually and free it from this natural pressure. And there is still sufficient time left, before Winter in the region for the Nazis to consummate their conquest of the Caucasus province, by pushing on down the west bank of the lower Volga, and clearing out Russian resistance down far as the Caucasus Mountains. Russian defense in that area cannot be formidable.

Patriotism

—By Heriberto



"GEE—AND I THOUGHT I WAS DOING SOMETHING. WHEN I BOUGHT A FEW WAR BONDS, TOOK A FIRST-AID COURSE AND TURNED IN AN OLD HOT-WATER BOTTLE."

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