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And Evening Chronicle

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A Call For Scrap

The Newspapers Undertake To Carry Out An Assignment From Donald Nelson

The subject calls, doubtless, for heroic and epic prose, calculated to breathe on the flames of patriotism that burns every man's breast, and make it burn stronger. But the little reader does not mind, we shall make scrap, not patriotism, the theme of this discourse.

Here is his chance to take a direct part in the war against his and his country's enemies. To the newspapers of the country there has been assigned by Donald Nelson, head of the War Production Board, a responsible campaign to get out the scrap in the country.

It is a campaign which will require the utmost efforts on the part of the newspapers and those individuals upon whom it has called to direct their intensive campaign. It will represent, on the part of those newspapers, a major donation to the war effort in the form of cash and costs, and on the part of the individuals a major donation in the most precious commodity of all time.

Counter-Attack

General Somervell Chastens Americans With Lash of Truth

What America's lay critics think of the Army and Navy has been no secret. Criticism and advice from civilians has been easy now. For the first time, the military has talked back. In St. Louis, Lieut. General Brechon B. Somervell, Chief of Supply, gave the people a high-ranking officer to do his duty in that respect, his words are of extreme importance.

Dead Hopes

A British Leader Cautions That Nazi Economy Is Holding Out

Honorable Dingle M. Foot (Are you grinning?), the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of Economic Warfare, spoke a truth as startling as the United Nations from London the other day. Though Russia's historic stands had cut the German war machine heavily in the past few months, the Nazi homeland is in no danger of anything like an internal collapse in the near future.

That information, offered in the midst of world-wide advertising for the Soviet remedy around Stalinburg, might save many a let-down in morale. Any little news of this or that German delinquency is good news at home, but let it be remembered that the Third Reich is fully prepared to take the heaviest punishment for a long time to come.

Wishful thinking comes so easily, after word of the destructive British raids and the tales of food, clothing and material shortages on the continent. But as Under-Secretary Foot told his own people, Hitler's position is still solid and sound. The cream of the most potent scientist's wealth is supplied and still supplies the Nazi armies. The home economy was prepared long in advance for hardships.

There is a bone, hard and extremely costly draw ahead for the Allies. Germany may well crack under the agonized pressure of a tremendous hand force, driving at her heart. Only after months of that kind of pressure may the folks at home begin to think of the end to come. It will be of no help to underestimate the enemy.

Pigs Is Pigs

Busy Hoarders Are Taking Your Morning Cup of Java

What's happened to those two and three cups of coffee you used to have every morning? Some people are pigs. They ought to be fed scraps out of a trough. They don't deserve to have regular food, cat like humans, be treated like humans.

We have a ruling here in this state, one pound of coffee to a customer. We have 35 cents less coffee for our customers. There is no rationing, we have to do the rationing. It's the only way we can make any attempt to have coffee

Root of All Evil

Five Little Words Rocked The Nation

By Robert Humphreys (Substituting for Paul Mallon)

WASHINGTON

FIVE words laid end to end don't reach very far, but if President Roosevelt had omitted that many words from his Labor Day message to Congress, the price control problem probably never would have become a burning issue.

Yet oddly enough, those five words described exactly what is really behind the farm bloc fight in Congress. In his message, Mr. Roosevelt had a sentence which seemed to say that in computing farm prices, such calculations should include all costs of production—"including the cost of labor."

Why did Congress seize on those five words? You have to go clear back to the farm to get the answer, and you may be surprised to find out that higher prices for the food on your table was not what the farmer was really after. The truth of the matter is that there is not a farmer in this country who is not experiencing some difficulty in finding enough farm hands to harvest his crops, and those sands upon thousands of them are actually face to face with critical labor shortages.

They see their sons being drafted into the armed services, or leaving for the big pay offered by defense industries; they try to find replacements and they discover there aren't any. Everybody is either in the Army or headed for the boom cities—that's the picture.

What are the results? A farmer can see that next year is going to be even worse. More guns needed, more men required both to make those guns and to shoulder them.

Supporting farm prices are up? What good are higher prices if a farmer can't harvest his crop?

How was this reflected in Congress? About six weeks ago, as the harvest season increased the pinch, congressional mail began to bulge with letters from farmers.

"My son has been drafted and I will be forced to sell my farm."

"Three hands quit for \$1.50-an-hour jobs in the city. What am I going to do?"

"I tried to get my hired man deferred, but the draft board wouldn't do it. Can't you do something in Washington?"

Jittery Congressmen, up for re-election this year, just

didn't know the answers. Nor was there any proposal pending in Congress, any single vehicle to which they could tie, to show the farmer that they were doing their best to solve his problem. Then came Mr. Roosevelt's message on price control.

Inflation and farm labor are not very closely related, but Mr. Roosevelt's message tied them together. First, the President said that the legal minimum ceiling on farm prices was too high and Congress should reduce it. Second, the President sought to soften the blow by discussing agricultural production costs and added that they should "include the cost of labor."

Congressmen took that to mean farm labor and rushed to get on the bandwagon. Here was the vehicle they had been looking for!

Twenty-four hours later an anti-inflation bill was introduced in the House, which carried a provision requiring that farm labor costs be considered. Twenty-four hours after that Mr. Roosevelt wrote a letter to Congress and said he hadn't meant the "cost of farm labor," but the cost of industrial labor.

That was two weeks ago and the repercussions haven't died down yet.

The best guess in Washington is that Mr. Roosevelt did not have exact knowledge of every word that was in his Labor Day message.

If a war-time President is the actual author of half that goes into his speeches and State papers, he has a high percentage. He is just too burdened to write them, and that is why more Congressmen didn't charge that Mr. Roosevelt had "backed down."

His "out" was admittedly a thin one, but few members tried to take direct advantage of it. On the other hand, however, the letter produced no noticeable descent from the "farm labor" bandwagon.

There was also an ironic side to it all. It is doubtful that the "farm labor" provision would have even got into the price control legislation, had not the question been raised in the President's message.

Not Representative Paul Brown, of Georgia, not Senator Elmer Thomas, of Oklahoma, but whoever wrote the phrase into Mr. Roosevelt's message was the real

author of the provision. Agricultural experts can't recall a single time that such a proposition was ever advanced in Congress—that is, until that five-word phrase appeared in the President's message.

In the House, there were thirteen men who could see the collision coming and who tried desperately to prevent it. Organized by two youthful members of Congress, Representatives Albert Gore of Tennessee and Mike McCarthys of Oklahoma, the group met, quietly one night two weeks ago at the Washington home of Representative Charles Dewey, an Illinois Republican.

All present were members of the House Banking Committee, which was considering the legislation, and they didn't like the bill as drafted. So they drafted a new one—satisfactory to the Administration—and omitted the farm labor provision.

They won their fight in the Banking Committee, but they lost it later on the floor of the House when the provision was restored.

Why couldn't they stem the tide; why didn't the President's letter turn the trick?

The answer is that the harassed agricultural members of Congress had to get on record for something that would at least make a talking point on the farm labor problem in their campaigns for re-election. Few members, exchanging views in the cloakrooms, thought they were helping solve either inflation or the manpower question.

The whole question of manpower is the coming issue in Washington. Go to any member of Congress. Any official of the Government, and he will tell you that not only is the labor shortage in the agricultural districts serious, but that it is even worse in the industrial centers.

Pittsburgh needs 100,000 men, Detroit, 60,000, Baltimore 40,000, etc.—labor shortages in 35 cities in fact.

Go to General Hershhey, the national draft director, and he will tell you what a headache the draft is proving to him—how difficult it is to measure the needs of the armed forces, how cumbersome is the operation of deferment, how unwieldy is the entire draft machinery.

Not much is being said publicly now, but the lid is due to come off this issue once the elections are out of the way. Watch for it.

Side Glances



"The way things have turned out, I'd like to know whether there's any refund on all those pennies I saved for the missionaries in Japan—I could use 'em for war stamps!"

Odds And Ends

Keep Out, You

ON the night of the New York primaries, says Editor & Publisher, a press association office in Washington got repeated calls from the White House for returns.

A copy boy, having one call, asked a desk man for figures. "The White House isn't supposed to be interested in politics," cracked the desk man.

"The boy picked up the phone and told 1620 Pennsylvania Avenue: 'You folks aren't supposed to be interested in this stuff.'"

All Give Thanks

Christian Science Monitor NEEDEDLY mathered one of the world's most useful inventions one cold winter night in 1349, when a once-wealthy Englishman grown very poor searched among his scanty effects for a bed covering that would keep him and his wife warm. The only thing he could find was a piece of rough, bulky, unfinished cloth.

This cloth he proceeded to wrap about himself, and was pleasantly surprised to find how warm and comfortable it felt. Invented by nature this man, Thomas Blanket by name, set out to recognize the value of this covering, and soon brought into general use the handy article we now know as the blanket.

With the Army

From Parade A syndicate reporter, Edmund Modica, was scouting around a military state recently, looking for a town named MacArthur. "You're in the right burg, but you've got the wrong name, buddy," said a local native. "They changed the name to Eisenhower last week."

Speaking about strange parties entering armed forces of the United States, a New York City draft board rejected a 23-year-old lad here for military service. The picture of Ed Rivera carried too much smile and aroused our suspicion. We never thought he was that good. Dick Russell had a poor pose before the photographer. That came from his smiling when looking at his picture that maybe that was the reason he did not get married. Ellis Arnall is a rival of Franklin D. Roosevelt in posing for a picture. He is lucky in having a good-looking wife and a small child that make him look like a family man.

Lens-Lease Aid

The Moultrie (Ga.) Observer PUT it down among the assets of the new nominee for Governor that he takes a good picture. This is something we have been needing in the Governor's chair for a long time. The picture of Eugene Talbot always looked wild and woolly. The picture of Ed Rivera carried too much smile and aroused our suspicion. We never thought he was that good. Dick Russell had a poor pose before the photographer. That came from his smiling when looking at his picture that maybe that was the reason he did not get married. Ellis Arnall is a rival of Franklin D. Roosevelt in posing for a picture. He is lucky in having a good-looking wife and a small child that make him look like a family man.

Visitin' Round Bible Thought

Flash: At Marsh Hill Monroe Journal) Sometime ago a woman went visiting and discovered that her neighbor's shoes were not alike. She had been wearing them for some time and didn't know they were not mates.

They threw away many things that they treasured, but their lives depended on parting with all not essential. We are carrying excess cargo right now. And we being exceedingly lousy by a lamp-post. —Acts 27:18.

The Real Trouble

Labor, Not Prices

By Raymond Clapper

WASHINGTON

THE real trouble farmers are in is not farm prices but from a shortage of labor.

The labor shortage has waxed in and out of the inflation fight as an argument in favor of boosting the parity basis for farm prices.

Farmers are losing help for two reasons. One is that draft and enlistments are taking large numbers from the farms. The other is that the high wages paid in aircraft and shipbuilding plants are drawing labor from the farm. The draft is rapidly on the way to becoming the big factor. It is bound to hit industrial labor very hard within the next two or three months.

Although the farm labor shortage has been used as an argument for boosting farm prices, it really is an argument for something else—an overhauling of the whole manpower problem.

Several things can be done before the question of Government control over all manpower is decided. The Tolson Committee of the House has given much study to these possible moves short of manpower control.

One of the most important is to make the most efficient use of existing manpower. Those who have studied this problem say that some employers, anticipating labor shortage and loss of a cushion, have overbilled to be sure of a cushion. This hoarding of labor is one thing which the Tolson Committee believes the Government should attack. Another is the training of older men and women for replacements. A third is the use of men at their highest skills.

These are matters of intricate personnel management which in normal times the forces of competition take care of through regular management operation. But present conditions are chaotic. Employers do not know how many men they will lose and how rapidly. Anyway they are deep in new problems connected with production of war goods and simply are unable to devote adequate attention to training persons as future substitutes. The Tolson Committee has recommended that the Manpower Commission set up a staff of specialists in labor utilization.

tion to assist employers in mastering their manpower difficulties.

With respect to semi-skilled labor, the Tolson Committee has several suggestions. It would expand vocational training for groups hitherto largely excluded from industrial employment, such as women, the aged, handicapped, colored and other minorities. It would subsidize training and finance their transfer to areas where they were needed. It would have a civilian defense campaign in areas of general labor shortage to draw into the labor market persons living in areas there who are not ordinarily employed—such as housewives. Many other detailed suggestions of the same type are offered, some drawn from the British experience with manpower shortage.

The point of the Tolson Committee recommendation is that most of them could be put into effect by the Manpower Commission or other Government agencies without legislation and without regard to what may be done about the proposed National Service Law.

Most of those who are studying the manpower problem believe that such a program is reaching an explosive point. It is reaching into dairying, and we may be forced to ration milk unless farm labor is provided somehow. While the Tolson Committee program would help, much of it will have to be undertaken in any case. It is not likely to be sufficient. It offers little to relieve the farm labor shortage.

The Administration must soon face the real task, which is to bring about a balance in the whole war program. That means balancing at the top—fitting strategy, military needs, labor supply, agriculture, materials out plant capacity into relation with each other, so that essential production is not interfered with by the draft, nor be unnecessary production. Are you going to slow down ship production. Are you going to slow down ship production. Are you going to slow down the draft quotas until the ships to move the men are built? Such questions need the attention of a topside clearing house and there is no such clearing house yet. Why? Just because Mr. Roosevelt hasn't got around to it.

'Thanks for the Lift'

—By Herblock

