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The Trap

Somebody's Been Fooling With Congress; They'll Get Caught

The Senate, in a final effort to trap that elusive old fox, the President of the United States, suggested an iron-bound law preventing him from fooling around under the table and financing his own pet agencies which Congress has already cut off without a penny. It is, of course, about the only way left to halt Franklin Roosevelt. He has maintained a monumental indifference to the wishes of Congress and the people on many a domestic issue. Even though directly forbidden to bolster this or that public agency with public funds, he has done so over and over again, without fear of criticism.

It is not to be doubted that Franklin Roosevelt was ever acting for the good of the nation (even those WPA-FWA political changes before elections never quite stuck), but it is to the good of the nation that he will no longer, if this bill passes the House, be able to fling with public agencies just as he sees fit.

On more than one occasion the President has shown a petulant stubbornness as concerns his own authority on the social tapestry of the United States. He has often patronized agencies, spurred by bad advice, directly against the wishes of Congress and the Democratic party. In that fashion did he himself drive the first wedge into party solidarity; even in the recent past he had added considerably to the opposition by his refusal to be bound by any limitation of powers whatsoever.

It is now the idea of the Senate that he can be trapped, and that he or a successor will not be able to keep alive any agency previously blighted by Congress. Remembering back to some of the Congressional friends and enemies among New Deal agencies, and painfully harkening back to the agencies dreamed up by the President, Mr. Roosevelt and the Brain Trust, we're not certain whether Congress or the President had best be left in control. We anticipate dissatisfaction, whoever wins.

A New World

Our Soldiers Are Learning An Outlook Strange To Us

Granting that all of the problems of America after the war will be settled down to the last final detail, the millions of young veterans returning from the far fields of this war would still find home a strange, unsatisfying place. There is new evidence every day that this war, as every war, is making new men of our fighters at such a rapid rate that we will soon be a nation divided. As men returned sobered, enlightened or embittered in 1919, the new generation will return to civilian life, looking for a normal way of life, knowing that they will never find it again—and hoping against hope that they won't.

This week we came upon a letter written by a young WAC from a big training post, in which she was making the Army side the new state of mind gripping almost all of America's soldiers. To us, it seems as important a fact as the war will produce, for it is a pattern to apply to all men, and women.

"I wish you could see these boys drilling and practicing hand-to-hand fighting. They seem so real, and they are so earnest; there is an agony in your heart when you look at them—they are just guys from back home, but you wouldn't remember them. They seem so far away now that they're getting ready for the big push, and they seem terribly tired. Their world can never be known to you back home, but if you could see them just once, for an instant, you would know that no matter how hard the people of the country work, they are not keeping pace with these men in the Army."

"I used to wonder what the change was that came over the men at home who were back on furlough from the Army. Now I know, for I myself have changed. Not only my mind, but my body. I find it difficult to talk with a civilian. I'm part of the Army and I love it. After

this war's over it will be so hard to get used to all these boys turning back to go back home. They will find it so different."

Yes, the world of the Army is different from the world back home. An even more appalling thought for tomorrow is that the world back home will no longer be to the liking of the youngsters who left it such short months ago. That is a great human problem for the years to come.

Immigration Scare

Soothiser Haan Right Once, Almost Hope He's Right Now

It was amusing, in a heart-rendering fashion, to hear the House Immigration Committee step forward and take full responsibility for the tragedy of Pearl Harbor. Because this handful of Congressmen (getting along in years and showing the signs around the waistline) paid attention to the warning of a Korean prophet in late '41, Japan staggered us with foul blows throughout the Pacific. It brings a smile, this brave action of Immigration; it also brings a dark surmise.

Suppose, after all, that Mr. Kilboe Haan, who warned of the coming of Pearl Harbor, is correct in his prediction that a Jap invasion force is even now pointed for the West Coast. Suppose that a great Jap armada is to bring a 100,000-man army to American shores, for the purpose of occupation of the West. In such a case, the Immigration Committee still bears a heavy burden. Its members, paired with the memory of a ghastly failure in the past, may be unable to sleep nights, fearing that this uncanny Mr. Haan may be right once more.

But the probabilities are that Japan, if she dares send her fleet toward America, will have it battered and blown to bits long before it threatens the Coast. The chances are that the new American strength, poured down the Aleutian chain, and into Alaska, and the new striking forces of the islands, will quickly bring to naught any such attempt at invasion.

Indeed, military men of Army and Navy might express their most fervent wish that this latest vision of Mr. Haan would come to pass. For in no other way could they hope to have the naval might of Japan gathered together for destruction; in no other way could our fighting men expect to see such crack as major Jap forces. An invasion like that wouldn't frighten Americans, Mr. Haan, excepting the Immigration Committee. That's just a means of bringing the villain within easy range. Curb service, almost.

Retirement

City Should Carry Program To Conclusion Quickly

The opening maneuvers in the fight to install a full-fledged retirement system for Charlotte's City employees is to be halted as the coming of a considerable achievement. In all the City Government, there is no such gap as exists in the lack of planning for old employees. The presence of a Civil Service system has only emphasized the need for a retirement system. Without one, the other cannot be of full value to the City.

It is to be hoped that, out of the conferences of the Mayor, Councilman Baker and City Attorney Tillet, will be able to lay the foundation for the adoption of the system. It is academic that one must be adopted before Charlotte may be said to have anything approaching a model City Government. The obstacles in the path may seem great; the financial burden may be eyed with distaste by the citizenry. But the rewards of a retirement system are so obvious that only emulous and heavy initial cost will become less expensive, and with the passing of years will become almost self-supporting. Soon or late, the City must face the need of providing such a system. It is our thought that time, trouble and money might be saved by carrying it forward from the discussion stage to adoption immediately.

Those weary of waiting for the Leaning Tower of Pisa can pay \$2 on which way the Duce will fall.

The Old Fear

Big Nations Are Bullies

By Raymond Clapper

STOCKHOLM
Small nations like Sweden have long-standing fears of big powers, and on that psychology the Axis is beginning to play in its desperation. Wide circulation is being given in neutral countries to the remarks of Undersecretary of Foreign Affairs Bastiani before the Foreign Affairs Committee of the Italian Senate. This Axis spokesman took the line that at the last meeting of Hitler and Mussolini the fundamental principle was adopted that smaller nations would never be free to accept oppression by big powers and could retain their national individuality and have free development.

The German press is giving much attention to that statement, peddling it among the neutrals as the key to the postwar political aims of the Axis. The same newspapers which carry that also report the execution of ten more Norwegians, next door to Sweden. People here cannot hear what the Axis spokesman says about freedom for small nations, because the screams of tortured victims in Norway drown out the smoothly tailored voice from Italy.

It is incredible that the Axis should attempt so audacious a line when the facts of its brutal oppression of small nations are so well known here. I have just had dinner with several Norwegians, one of whom had escaped from Oslo the previous week. The others escaped during the last few months. No one in Norway is allowed to own a radio set, on penalty of death. One of the escaped Norwegians was an editor, who described how the Germans give instructions as to the size of headlines and the position in the paper of all news concerning the war. The atrocity stories these men told are too bloodcurdling to reprint. And whether they are all true or not, so many Swedes believe them to be true that the Axis line about being good to small nations is too revolting to bring even a healthy horse-laugh here.

One of the surprises I have had in Sweden has been the ineffectiveness of the Nazi propaganda. The Swedes and other neutrals know the Allied powers are not going to treat them with the brutality with which the Nazis have treated

Czechoslovakia, Holland, Poland and Norway. They see that the Irish Free State, after nearly four years of war, is still neutral although it is a part of the British Isles and surrounded by strategic locations that Britain badly needs. Would the Axis ever have permitted that? That is the only answer needed to the new Axis line of bullying up small nations.

Yet I think we of the United States, and the British and Russians as well, must recognize that we have a problem with the small states. They have been fairly well dealt with in the Western Hemisphere, where no country, whatever its size, has anything to fear from the bigger countries. No one in any country of the Western Hemisphere can honestly say that the United States has thwarted its cultural development or political independence. On the contrary the United States has co-operated with and assisted financially all the nations of the hemisphere in developing toward greater freedom and security and higher standards of living. Yet at the same time the military strength of the United States has been applied to make the Western Hemisphere secure.

Something of that same method is necessary in other areas. You cannot expect Russia to leave herself insecure, or to fail to develop strategic locations, any more than the United States could be expected to forego protection of the Panama Canal. But the small nations have a right to expect that the Russians and British and ourselves will permit them to have their own cultural development and self-government just as the Irish Free State and the small countries of the Western Hemisphere do. There is no reason why that cannot be.

Military security need not be combined with brutal oppression. In fact, the Nazi experience shows that this is exactly the worst way to proceed, because it defeats its own purpose. Norwegians are sinking Nazi ships in Norwegian harbors. Every day in the occupied countries, even in nicely treated Denmark, the conquerors are stabbed in the back, which ought to be enough of a hint to the big powers for their postwar treatment of small countries.

That Vaunted Jap Toe-Hold in the Aleutians

—By Dorman Smith



Carolina Fascism?

Goebbels In Wilmington

From "The Hour"
FOR many months the Wilmington Post, a weekly newspaper published in Wilmington, North Carolina, has been conducting a propaganda campaign vilifying the United States war effort and violently denouncing American democracy. The Hour can reveal that during this period the Wilmington Post has been receiving financial aid from a shipbuilding firm which is working on Government war contracts. The firm is the North Carolina Shipbuilding Co. of Wilmington, North Carolina.

The editorial policy of the Wilmington Post hews closely to the official propaganda line of Herr Dr. Goebbels. According to O. G. Carroll, editor of the Wilmington Post, the Roosevelt Administration is dominated by "Communists"; the war has brought "dictatorship" to the United States; and Americans who are concerned about their "liberties" must think in terms of "rebellion."

As is customary in Fascist propaganda journals, violent attacks on organized labor are interwoven with racial slanders. A typical quotation, from an editorial in the Wilmington Post denigrating CIO organizers in Wilmington, reads:

"The cajoling of these foreign agitators to induce the colored folk to 'line and get a mite and forty acres' has fallen flat and these hinds with hook beaks which rear above the fields are revealed in their true light—vultures."

The attitude of the newspaper toward the U. S. war effort was clearly indicated in the following comments on a recent talking of a Government war agency:

"Rebellion is an ugly word. In time of war, it is a crime. Yet, should some concern refuse to accept dictation as in the above case it should be considered in the light of guaranteeing our liberties which are threatened in a most abominable manner."

On March 6, 1943, the Wilmington Post had this to say about the U. S. war effort:

"What justification have we to fight and sacrifice in our war against Hitlerism when we are following him in his precepts right here at home? The upheaval to come in next year's election will not be a simple evolution; it will be a revolution and it will be the New Deal that goes to the guillotine."

And the issue of the Wilmington Post which appeared on March 13 featured an article, "Absenteeism and Army Expansion," containing this revealing observation:

"Hitler may be insane, but he has more common sense in dealing with this problem than most of our higher-ups. What is the use of sending men to the front who are not fit to fight? It is quite fitting that a newspaper expressing such opinions as the above should openly subscribe to the Hitlerite concept of democracy's decadence and the need for society being ruled by an elite few. Here are the Post's views on Hitler's dictatorship."

"We still have that 'radical' idea concerning franchise. We do not believe that every person should have a vote equal to some other person. Why should a man like Henry Ford have his vote paired against that of a guttersnipe?"

The Hour has learned that the Wilmington Post has been receiving financial assistance from an agency organized and subsidized by North Carolina Shipbuilding Co. This agency is the Cape Fear Shipbuilders' Association, a pseudo-labor organization formed by the North Carolina Shipbuilding Co. to prevent the authentic unionization of its shipyard. Only a few weeks ago the National Labor Relations Board ordered the North Carolina Shipbuilding Co. to discontinue its illegal support of the Cape Fear Shipbuilders' Association. The Hour can reveal that the Wilmington Post has been getting approximately \$200 a week from the Association—that is, from the North Carolina Shipbuilding Co.

The North Carolina Shipbuilding Co. is working on U. S. Government contracts, and is being paid by our Government to build ships to help win this war against the Axis. Nevertheless, the North Carolina Shipbuilding Co. does not hesitate to give financial aid to the Wilmington Post, which slanders the U. S. Government, derides our war effort and spreads propaganda against the Axis.

The Hour recommends that the North Carolina Shipbuilding Co. make an immediate choice as to which it intends to support: the U. S. war effort against the Axis, or the Wilmington Post propaganda campaign against the U. S. war effort.



"You and the old rooster do all the crowing around here—but I notice the hens and me do all the work!"

Axis Loss

Ex-Comintern

By Samuel Crafton

NEW YORK
THE abolition of the Comintern hits M. Laval hard. He has been able to excuse his subservience to a foreign master, Germany, only by making the charge that most of the people of France were secretly working for another foreign master, Russia. M. Laval has been stamping out internationalism. If you like, crossing the border many times a year to come to get precise orders on how to rule. The new turn in affairs, ending the Comintern, leaves M. Laval as the admitted master of Germany, fighting patriotic Frenchmen who insist on remaining French, and remaining at home.

What's the internationalist now? The intellectual bankruptcy of Fascism is complete. It started life as a nationalist movement. It acquired nationalist subsidiaries all over Europe, French "nationalists" and Hungarian "nationalists" and Rumanian "nationalists." Now all these false European nationalists are caught in an international apparatus with which they dare not break. The program of French "nationalism" is to unite several hundred thousand Frenchmen to work in Germany. The program of Italian "nationalism" is to hang on to a worst international separation, even though the best national interests of Italy call for separation.

Fortress Europe has become the Prison of Nations; an international movement which joins nations together, by force, behind a physical wall, compulsory internationalism at the point of a bayonet. In all the captured countries, the false nationalists of a few years ago, who used to break heads in the streets on the plea that they had to protect their nations against insidious foreign influences, are now making a kind of internationalist gibberish to the effect that the interests of all countries in Europe are identical with the interests of Hitler.

Their intellectual bankruptcy is complete. As they flash their knives on each other and compel each other in turn to say solemnly that black is white.

German "nationalists" may today observe that at least 2,000,000 Germans are dead or captured in Russia, while at least 100,000 foreigners have been moved into Germany. The German "nationalist" movement, which came to power fighting the exchange of votes among nations, and the free exchange of ideas, has no objection to exchanging the bodies of men. It does not insist on an autarchy of German blood.

That is how one knows when a movement is ready to perish; its ideological death approaches when it has to combat its own movement. When French "nationalists" have to say to Frenchmen: "You cannot stay in France, you have to go to Germany!" It was high time to outlaw the Comintern and its irritating variety of internationalism when all Europe was watching its false "nationalists" visibly taking orders from a foreigner.

They were caught naked, in a strong light, and Russia has ordered the end of the Comintern in order to leave Europe's false nationalists without even a shred of obscurity in which to garb themselves and try to make themselves decent.

It was for these astute and sufficient reasons that the act was taken, and probably not through any vulgar motive of "spoiling" anybody. Sincere nationalism now works against Hitler. Russia has secured this, and she has decided, quite realistically, not to tamper with it.

And that should be even more reassuring to us than the theory that Russia did it to appease us. She did it to help mobilize great forces for the defeat of Hitler, in a process that is real, and that makes sense. It is a move which announces that no "maneuvers" are needed, now, to defeat Hitler; that national trends are adequate to do it.

Hitler has merely distorted the truth, for the avalanche which is roaring on its way against Der Fuehrer.

Sleeping Dogs

Bills In Abeyance

THE first session of the 78th Congress, in progress since Jan. 6, has developed an unusual number of "legislative sleepers"—bills that have made no recent progress although they seemed at an earlier date important and labor bills, which shortly may display sudden activity, and several other measures directly touching the war effort.

The most potent of the sleepers on the sidelines is Bankhead, Democrat, Alabama, bill No. 1, which would forbid deduction of subsidy payments to farmers from the draft—passed the House in 1940, but not yet considered in the House. The Kilgley, Democrat, Texas, bill to provide draft deferment priorities for men with families, passed by the lower body April 1, has not yet been taken up in the Senate.

Other farm bills being held in abeyance are the Pace, Democrat, Georgia, bill to include farm labor costs when calculating party prices—passed by the House March 28 but not yet considered in the Senate—and Bankhead bill No. 2 to defer full-time agricultural workers from the draft—passed the Senate March 28 but not yet considered in the House. The Kilgley, Democrat, Texas, bill to provide draft deferment priorities for men with families, passed by the lower body April 1, has not yet been taken up in the Senate.

Final Congressional action (or inaction) on a number of labor bills will also be influenced by the outcome of the coal dispute. The chief of these is the Connally, Democrat, Texas, bill to authorize Government seizure of strike-bound plants, which was passed by the Senate in a great hurry, May 1, and was reported to the House, May 11, with the understanding that it would be taken up in the House in its revised form, but no date has been set for action on the floor. The Bituminous Coal Strike Act has been given two extensions, first for 30 days and then for 90 days. Bills to extend the act for the duration of the war have not yet been reported to either house; it may be allowed to lapse if the coal controversy is not settled by the end of the year.

The Civilian Supply Administration bill, passed by the Senate May 10, over the opposition of the War Production Board, has not yet been taken up in the House. National Service bills to set up a system of civilian conscription, offered in early February by Senator Arthur C. Watkins, Republican, Vermont, and Representative Wadsworth, Republican, New York, have not yet advanced beyond the stage of committee hearings. Editorial Research Report.

Quote, Unquote

PATRIOTISM in World War II is more adult and far-seeing than in the former struggle. There seems little question that in this war the approach to civilian morale among all classes of people in the nation lies not through flag waving or through hate propaganda, but through greater understanding of the fiercest free world war fairly can be built when a democratic peace arrives.

—Morse A. Cartwright, director American Association of Adult Education.

If you are wise and courageous you will see a global society better than any that has ever been in the history of civilization.

—President Leonard Carmichael of Tufts College to graduating class.

We are doing well, better than we had a right to expect, but we'll do even better. Our casualties will multiply, but our men will win. We are going to drive our enemies back to their lairs and then we are going to beat them and beat them into submission.

—Colonel A. Robert Glanburgh of War Dept.

It is no good only to have one march march laid out. March after march must be planned as far as human eyes can see.

—Winston Churchill.