

### On The Ground

In reading Tim Pridden's fact-chirishing and thoughtful series of articles on low-cost housing in Charlotte, one opinion has been strongly borne in upon us. We have learned a good deal about the City Building Code and its companion, the Plumbing Code. Mr. Pridden has called attention to the great gap in these codes, such as the lack of any requirements for bathing facilities (recently proposed by Mayor Baxter) or electric lights.

Think of that—houses in this day and time, smack in a city which looks with pride on its hydro-electric production, with no electric lights! The country people, with their REA, are wiser awake and more progressive.

Those elementary requirements belong in the codes, and not much argument about it. But what has come out repeatedly in the Pridden articles is the difficulty of codifying decent standards—of putting in writing the standards that about housing which would say what the City meant. And that brings us to the opinion we have formulated.

The best way to determine if a house will or won't do is to go look, see what kind of site it's to be built on, how close it would be to other houses, what kind of place it's going to be to live in. It is well enough to have requirements. It is essential in addition, we believe, to have a look-see before issuing a permit for the construction.

### A Reformation

Do you hear Senator Arthur Vandenberg? Listen to what he's saying:

Let Congress immediately give President Roosevelt the power to commit the United States to an agreement to use force to keep Germany and Japan permanently disarmed. Let us act now, state our aims, and give the President everything he needs. Let us clear up the American enigmas—so long as it exists we cannot blame Russia for taking her own course. Let us give maximum co-operation to a world organization to make the basic principles of Dumbarton Oaks succeed. Let us assume a new dignity, a new international law.

Is that the old Vandenberg we once knew? It is not. Is that the voice of isolation and obstruction and obscurantism? Not exactly. Then what has happened to the Senator from Michigan? Has he gotten religion, seen a vision, taken Little Live Pills, or joined the PAC? Something drastic has happened. The Senator is now an ex-isolationist. He has been going along with the general ideas of the Administration's foreign policy for some months. Last week he almost came out with it, and this week he passed it, still going strong. Henry Wallace is only a few yards ahead. This is progress; amazing progress.

Here is an inner-Sanctum Republican, a high priest of nationalism-isolation, turning from the beliefs of his party and his own tight group. Here is an amplified echo of the recent election, a bold advance over the Republican platform. Here, in short, is a challenge to gentlemen on both sides of Congressional aisles. It is also a challenge to the people of the country, and to the President himself. The new Vandenberg is a man who sees what is going on about us.

Above all else, he sees that, unless and until we declare ourselves, we cannot hope to have Britain and Russia daily about, awaiting our solemn word. He sees that history is pressing us, and that we must answer. He sees that the greatest democracy must empower its President to talk turkey, right now. He sees, and says, that we must quit playing games with the world, and act. It is a miracle.

### Picking Up Speed

Governor Broughton's plan to provide adequate medical and hospital care for all the people of North Carolina is gaining ground. The Advisory Budget Commission approved generally in its report to the Assembly this week, but set forth no figures. That leaves it to the legislative processes, as is right and proper.

This week, too, we noted that two more medical societies, in Stanly County and in Rowan-Davie, had given their endorsement. We lack details, but assume that, as in the usual case, there was some dissenting opinion—which is entirely in order. At this point it seems that Governor Broughton was right in assuming that the physicians of the state would give the plan their approval, once they understood its provisions.

In passing, we'd like to correct a misapprehension *The News* furthered in reporting and commenting on the action of the Mecklenburg Medical Society. Our story, reporting that about 100 people were present, and noting that only 35 doctors voted on the proposal, assumed that only a small majority had taken part in the balloting. It happened, we have learned, that a good many of those in attendance were visitors, and that only 84 members were present, of whom 25 did vote—20 in favor of the program, 5 against.

That makes quite a different picture

from the one we presented, and indicates the keen interest of the doctors in this plan which already has the approval of the State Medical Society and the University Board of Trustees. It does not, of course, alter our conclusion that a great many physicians are opposed, and that, regarding the overall program with some suspicion. We believe it fortunate that these are in the minority, and that they will eventually discover that their fears are groundless.

### Commissioner Ben

We want to add our amen to City Council's recommendation of Ben Douglas as State Highway Commissioner. "The late Mayor," as we've been wont to call him since his retirement from political office, is just the man for the job.

Governor Cherry, of course, needs no introduction to his fellow-townsmen—and to the man who so capably managed his campaign in Mecklenburg. The Governor knows as well as any native of our parts just what the Douglas qualifications are.

But we can't pass the opportunity to add our bit. Charlotte knows Ben Douglas as an A-1, blue plate special, four-speeds-forward promoter. He was certainly going to be to live in. It is well enough to have requirements. It is essential in addition, we believe, to have a look-see before issuing a permit for the construction.

It is in that role that affable Ben would star as Highway Commissioner. We can rest assured that, in that job, he would produce new roads for North Carolina, and plenty of them. And they'd be strictly modern, meeting present day needs. For Mr. Douglas is also a visionary of parts; he sees ahead.

Remarkably well fitted, we say, for this job. And to meet the challenge of dealing with men all over the state he would bring a tremendously wide acquaintance, along with his pleasantly genial manner. We think the Governor couldn't do better than—Ben Douglas—but if he doesn't already know that he's surely been reminded by now.

### The Argentine

If there's a lesson to be learned from the latest Argentine incident, it's simply that half-measures are worse than none in the game of international politics. Having a choice, one would rather have a clean, open road for negotiation, than a half-measure which would bring a tremendously wide acquaintance, along with his pleasantly genial manner. We think the Governor couldn't do better than—Ben Douglas—but if he doesn't already know that he's surely been reminded by now.

In this case, the Farrell regime, which the U. S. has scolded repeatedly as a Fascist dictatorship, became impatient at the cool reception given its proposal that the Pan-American Union meet to discuss Argentine relations with the other nations of the hemisphere. The proposal was tossed into the lap of the Union without warning last October, and it has lain there ever since, to the extreme discomfort of the Union, U. S. disapproval marked by certain death. So now the Argentine tells the world in general, and the hemisphere in particular, that she will attend no future meetings of the Union so long as her rights are ignored.

As an isolated incident it means little. But as another in a long series of differences with the U. S. over the way our hemisphere is moving, it points up the steady disintegration of Good Neighborliness at a time when the U. S. can little afford to have its most highly touted foreign policy go awry.

It's easy enough to understand why the other Latin American nations, traditionally suspicious of the Colossus of the North, have been wearing broad smiles in recent years. The answer—U. S. money, cash, aid, and uncensored U. S. backpating and entertaining of small-time Latin politicians. But the case of Argentina is different.

If we can't get along with the Argentines, as another in a long series of differences with the U. S. over the way our hemisphere is moving, it points up the steady disintegration of Good Neighborliness at a time when the U. S. can little afford to have its most highly touted foreign policy go awry.

So Argentina has turned her back on the U. S. and is moving straight ahead with her plans for commercial and economic development. And mere finger-shaking by the U. S. State Department and the White House isn't going to stop her.

If the U. S. really wants to kick out the Farrell regime and put in a government of her own choosing, we'll have to do more than frown in disapproval. And to do more would let us in for the same kind of international criticism the British have received for their Greek policy and the Russians for their Polish policy.

We're inclined to go along with the other school of thought which would puncture some of the more bubbly sections of the Good Neighbor policy and reduce the United States to a sincere attempt to recognize that neighborhood is a bilateral proposition and that even our neighbors have certain plans of their own.

### The Merry-Go-Round

By Drew Pearson

WASHINGTON  
WHILE HOUSE advisers have been staging a quiet campaign this week to put Mayor Fiorello La Guardia across as the new Secretary of Labor.

So far the President has been unable to find the right or willing person to step into Miss Perkins' shoes and "the Madame" is intent on leaving. Some of the President's friends, therefore, insist that La Guardia is not only a natural, but could be persuaded to take what is the most thankless job in the Cabinet.

The labor post is being hard to fill because possible appointees will have to step into the middle of a hot CIO-AFL row in which they are sure to offend one side or the other. La Guardia, however, is used to stepping on people's toes, doesn't care how many people he offends, and will ride rough-shod over any group he thinks is wrong.

Moreover, the Little Flower's political prospects as mayor of New York for a fourth term are no brighter. The Republicans, and nominally he is one, say they won't nominate him again. The Democrats, toward whom he leans nationally, oppose him locally. La Guardia's popular following is just as large as ever, but he will have a tough time being re-elected if nominated.

So you may find the fiery Fiorello coming back to his old haunts, Washington, where once served as one of the most efficient hard-hitting Representatives ever elected to Congress.

### Secret Caucus

They weren't talking about it, publicly, but several Democratic Senators were hopping mad last week when, in secret caucus session, Roosevelt's Tom Connally told them to check with the Foreign Relations Committee before forming conclusions or taking a stand on foreign affairs.

Connally held forth at some length to assembled Democratic Senators as chairman of that committee. He appeared to be trying to re-establish the prestige by his committee when it railroaded the six State Department nominations through last month, only to have

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The full Senate took them right back at Connally and his committee for further consideration.

Connally's remarks were addressed principally to the new members. "Foreign relations," he explained, "are an extremely complicated subject today and I hope, before you discuss yourself or commit yourself in any way, you'll give our committee a chance to reach some important conclusions and to help you personally."

The Democratic volume of them put it, set "silent as a tomb, but not meek as a lamb."

Not only were there murmurs about Connally, but there was no enthusiasm among the new Senators over the leadership of Senator Kenneth McKellar, of Tennessee, who was elected President pro tem of the Senate. There was a strong feeling that the Senators who really should be heard from were those who aided in the campaign last year. Connally and McKellar were not alone, however, in the line of fire. Kilgore of West Virginia, Pepper of Florida, Kilgore of West Virginia, Guffey of Pennsylvania, really went down the line, working night and day to re-elect Roosevelt to his fourth term.

NOTES—One of the freshman Senators whom Connally lectured was Fulbright of Arkansas, former Rhodes scholar and university president, who knows more about foreign affairs than Tom ever thought of knowing. It was Fulbright who forced Congress and Connally to adopt an international co-operation resolution last year.

### The Diplomatic Game

The long, lean, gracious Earl of Halifax emerging from a one-hour session with the President last week, told news men he had come with JED a happy New Year and present him with a book of a gift.

"Did you discuss Drew Pearson's column with the President?" Halifax was asked.

"No," he replied.

"Did you discuss it with Mr. Stettinius?"

"No."

"Are you sure you didn't discuss it with Stettinius?" repeated the questioner.

"No," Halifax, somewhat more lolly.

"But, Mr. Ambassador," he reminded, "only ten minutes ago Mr. Stettinius said you did discuss it with him."

"Did he?" answered the Ambassador. "Well, I must have—I must have talked to him about it—on the telephone or something."



### The Pacific Speed-Up

By Marquis Childs

WASHINGTON  
ALL the evidence indicates that the tempo of the Pacific war is increasing rather than slackening off. The battle developing in Lingayen Gulf off the main Philippine island of Luzon quickly became a major invasion.

The latest campaign is especially significant in the light of the question mark raised here as to whether the Pacific war should not be put on ice for several months in order to obtain more shipping and supplies for the war in Europe.

The question has been raised with a special urgency by the British, who feel that the campaign in Lingayen Gulf set in long convicts across the Far Pacific are delaying the final decision in France and Germany. This view is stoutly challenged by our own military men, and particularly in the Navy, who have emphatically that pressure against the Japs must not be relaxed for even a day.

They insist that the Pacific war has not curtailed operations in Europe and that there has been nothing to do with the Philippines, partly because of the battle in Burma that cost the Japs so many casualties, the enemy has now moved out of the Burmese port of Akyab, which was taken without loss.

than any other writer at the front.

In a dispatch that appeared on Sunday, Gallagher said that the Germans, according to the best estimates, have fewer than half a million men, one-fourth as many guns and an air force one-sixth as large, and yet they not only halted the Allied attack, but took the initiative themselves. Gallagher had written that we were not outflanked, but "outgeneraled." So perhaps this is a question of how the men and supplies on the Western Front are used, rather than the volume available.

The debate over resources for Europe vs. resources for the Pacific theater, of course, not so much on the military front as on the need for at least a minimum of help for liberated countries. It gets down to a new and broader definition of warfare.

Those arguing the urgency of Europe's needs make the point that modern war is not just a matter of conquering and then moving on. You have to help build back stability, or you risk disorder and revolution that will interfere seriously with military operations.

Those making the case for continued punches at the Japs have in their favor the recent turn for the better in the Far East. Partly as a result of the smash against the Philippines, partly because of the battle in Burma that cost the Japs so many casualties, the enemy has now moved out of the Burmese port of Akyab, which was taken without loss.

### That German Morale

By Samuel Grafton

NEW YORK  
WE HEAR a lot about "German morale" from persons who are in no position to know anything about it, great and earnest speculations as to whether the Germans are despairing, or sad, or merely a little blue. The isolationist press often says that we are stupidly "improving German morale" by our slogan of unconditional surrender. This view is stoutly challenged by our own military men, and particularly in the Navy, who have emphatically that pressure against the Japs must not be relaxed for even a day.

They insist that the Pacific war has not curtailed operations in Europe and that there has been nothing to do with the Philippines, partly because of the battle in Burma that cost the Japs so many casualties, the enemy has now moved out of the Burmese port of Akyab, which was taken without loss.

hope when they reach the end of the impracticable; they may make some of us think that our leadership is stupid and inept and assume that our hopes for world order are only a joke. Such remarks close up our own child of hope, the hope on which our own morale is based; if these comments become general, our world would cease to make sense, and when the world ceases to make sense, more and more people will turn to make sense.

The proposal that we might try to make the charging panzer divisions in the Belgian bulge stop short by offering them softer, or better, or more desirable peace terms is a wild pitch, indeed. Such an offer would be much more likely to make the German troops feel that they had won a prize and that if they only fought more, they might win more.

It would tend to convince them that their war effort makes sense; that there is a pattern underlying their hopeless struggle, and that they are not without a plan. For "better" peace terms to follow immediately after the German offensive would be to make that offensive a success.

But German morale will not crack on success; it will crack only when Germany is fully convinced that Hitler has no plan. Let us not be fooled by Germany's desperate last stands, etc., into believing that German morale is high. The Germans fought desperately at Stalingrad, but if their morale had really been so high, they had been confident that they could solve their problems, if they had had the high swirling planfulness that goes with genuine morale, they might have retreated at Stalingrad months before the show-down, and reformed their army and made a large part of their gains.

Desperation led them to surrender, morale, and all that it implies, might have saved their armies.



"Gosh, while I'm slaving here, figuring what Farmer Brown would get for his apples at so much a bushel, I could be making as much in real money as errand boy at the drug store!"

### Ten Victories

By Hal Boyle

WITH AMERICAN 37TH INFANTRY DIVISION IN BELGIUM, Jan. 9.—(Delayed)—What makes an infantry regiment good? "Good battalion commanders," says Col. Walter M. Johnson of the 11th Regiment, "and I have three of the best in the Army." Johnson, also of Jackson, Tenn., and Col. Samuel T. McDowell of Rock Hill, S. C., have been in ten battles and ten victories.

But every man in the 30th Division has been through "break through" the battalion commanders—Lt. Col. Robert E. Frankland of Jackson, Tenn., Maj. Ben T. Ammons, also of Jackson, Tenn., and Lt. Col. Samuel T. McDowell of Rock Hill, S. C., have been in ten battles and ten victories.

But the "break through" boys are proudest of the fact that they never failed to take an assigned objective and never lost it after taking it.

Twice they knocked the elite first SS Adolf Hitler division back on its haunches. Last August the Germans tried to cut the American Armes in half at Mortain, France, and last month at Staveland when they trapped and destroyed a large portion of the rebuilt panzer division.

Johnson's regiment has taken about 3,000 prisoners, lost its own strength—and killed or wounded as many more. His men have taken 100 prisoners, have been in 10 battles, and have been in 10 victories.

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### People's Platform

Editors, The News:  
Those of your readers who have had a taste of this war for freedom everywhere in the world, and for lasting peace, will have a lot to say for the people's platform. Let's back the boys of North Carolina this way.

—HARLEN JAMES ALEXANDER Charlotte.

### Will We Be Ready?

Editors, The News:  
While we have seen the year 1944 come and go without a definite answer to the question of whether or not we are ready for the war, we are now in the year 1945, and we are still not ready. Let's back the boys of North Carolina this way.

—MERCER J. BLANKENSHIP Charlotte.

### Quote, Unquote

WE must cut spending and appropriate as deeply as we can. Even war appropriations must be given very scrupulously.

—Rep. Joseph W. Martin Jr. (R) of Massachusetts.

When funds were more plentiful last year this Government clearly indicated that rationing was lax. Now that an unexpected war has broken out, it is wise to progress. It is wise to ration. Let's back the boys of North Carolina this way.

—Paul R. White, president of Grocery Manufacturers of America.

The supply job in France is of course the real test, but that's what war is all about. Let's back the boys of North Carolina this way.

—War Manpower Commissioner Paul V. McNutt in France.