

Wages Of Sin

There's something wrong, of course, with almost any old program, and we've checked up on our own selves and made a little discovery. Crime does pay. Or at least it means and petty infringements of the law do. Charlotte and Mecklenburg make a pretty good thing of them. We're ready with reports on the cash value of the community's little fobles which take so many citizens outside the law.

The County Police were high scorers. In the year past they ran up a total of \$78,165.65—and most of that went directly into County coffers. This was the record:

Fines and forfeitures, \$18,840; costs collected, \$4,257; value goods recovered, \$3,684; value of confiscated liquor, \$3,856; value confiscated cars, \$13,550. There was income, too, from the State Pension Fund and the County Emergency Fund—but those don't come under the heading of criminal activities. The County Police did that business on 1,990 arrests (2,720 cases, in all) which passed through Charles W. Bundy's Recorder's Court.

Add to that the considerable contribution made by the City Police, through City Recorder's Court.

The City collected a total of \$62,554.38. It levied fines of over \$27,000, and collected more than \$25,000 in costs. It confiscated \$191 of "gambling money" and turned it over to the County School Fund. It confiscated one automobile, and turned \$73.50 over to the School Fund. Recorder's Court handled 9,620 cases—and the Traffic Bureau handled 5,838 cases with revenue from the latter almost \$9,000.

By comparison, the County got a good deal more for its money. With fewer than 3,000 cases it squeezed more from its patrons-at-law. The combined total of City Recorder's Court and Traffic Bureau was over 14,000—and produced less money. In any event, we see no reason to debate over the relative merits of City and County as money-makers in the field of law violations.

What matters is that such a great deal of violation goes on continually, and that it adds a sizeable sum to the treasuries. In total, you see, it pays well over \$140,000 annually. So long as human nature continues what it is, and this parade of vice is not stopped, it's a good business. A little scheme for redistribution of wealth with no conflicting ideologies involved, as it were.

Way Of The Beast

In a snow-covered field near ruined Malmédy bodies of 150 American soldiers, frozen in the cold. They died unarmed, and not as fighting soldiers, but as prisoners. They were massacred, as many of their buddies have been, by Hitler's 65 Troops. They were lined up and shot down with machine guns. They were against the solidarity of the most liberate nation in the world was not kind to them—nor very long.

Their bodies were discovered in the first December light by a company of doughboys who had moved up in the night and dug in. They lay sprawled among the new foxholes, their bodies mute testimony to the nature of the beasts who held the line ahead. Before the morning is very old, the grim company sent the Germans passing down their road, just a handful of them. Young boys, perhaps the very boys who helped in the massacre on that spot. But they are on their way to the rear. To the safety and comparative comfort of prison.

The doughboys were moved by strong emotions as they passed. Hal Boyle heard them muttering. They wanted to repay the Germans in kind; they wanted to take no prisoners, and to give the enemy the kind of treatment he had asked for. That was one day, one incident, near Malmédy.

Within a few days the Berlin radio, barking in great excitement, yelled that Americans were violating the rules of international law. Some of them, Berlin said, had been caught in German uniforms, and some of them killed as they were driven from German lines. If the men who were around Malmédy's field of the Dead heard that, what ghost they must have received it in grim silence, in light-lipped rage. They know, if no one else does, the nature of the German at war.

They hear, and with the knowledge often communicated to us, the use of our back home should know—and the false image of the pleasant, industrious German at war.

In The Vise

Now, for the first time since early Summer, the tremendous pressure of Allied military might is thrown against Germany on all sides. This week, when Moscow finally revealed the opening of new offensives in the East, and when Allied armies were defeating the Belgian bulge, the war went into a new phase. It will be its final phase, for it will make staggering demands upon the enemy's weakened war machine, and will restrict him for the very first time in or near his own borders.

Last June, when our troops drove into Normandy, the Russians have grinding away in the East—but shortly thereafter they slowed the pace. They turned to cleaning up around Finland, and the Germans dug in along the Vistula, around Warsaw, and in the East Prussian triangle. While the Western armies were clearing Normandy, Russia halted her drive. And when General Bradley led the break through which swept the enemy almost to the German border, Russia, attending to her affairs in the Balkans.

There, with 25 German divisions encircling two Russian armies, political alignments were settled as Red troops gradually moved into Czechoslovakia and Hungary. The Russian advance, timed, eased into Austria. When the German counter-attack lashed out in Belgium, there was still a bill in the East, and Hitler had a working margin. This week, he no longer has that margin.

Henceforth, if the Soviet Russian drives continue and the pressure in the West is maintained, the enemy will have no rest. In Italy, too, there is activity, sapping the German strength. The great issue is at last applied. If it is not loosened, it means the end. This is the climax.

A New High

Senator Vandenberg, who made the speech of his life last week, has the whole country buzzing. His stand on a courageous and determined foreign policy sounded a new note in many quarters, and it not only checked the advance of isolation among us; it carries us forward to a new stage in our thinking about the American place in world affairs. It not only armed President Roosevelt. It also set Congress on a new path.

It was a contribution to our thought on foreign policy in itself, but it is likely the forerunner of many speeches on the subject in Congressional halls. For, with it, the Senate and Representatives are likely to ignore Senator Clegg's plea for a moratorium on foreign policy debate and oratory. As Chairman of the Senate's Foreign Relations Committee, Senator Tom took it upon himself to guide the Senate through speaking, he said, Senators should check with his Committee. He spoke for unity, and he wanted to check on every statement. His was a plea for censorship.

Now that Senator Vandenberg has spoken, members of both houses should find courage to speak their minds, and in this time that will be of great benefit to the nation. For what looks like a general debate on foreign policy promises far more than the great Senate debate on the League of Nations and Versailles in 1919-20.

In this time, chances are that reason will prevail, and that there will be fewer of those impassioned appeals to senators (Senator Harding: "Let the word 'American' be held the proud boast of citizenship in all the world.") Johnson of California: "I appeal to those men who have held aloft . . . the old Stars and Stripes . . . to stand firm and vote for America." Borah of Idaho compared the League proposal to the bombing of the home of Attorney General Palmer, and evoked the spirit of Nancy Hanks, for some reason he did not disclose.

Senator Vandenberg, at least, based his appeal on reason, and with Congress bound already by the Fulbright and Connally Resolutions, debate in this vital time will surely be on a high level of intelligence. That holds out a hope for our future.

By the remarkable coincidence, '45 is the perfect designation for a shooting year.

The Merry-Go-Round

By Drew Pearson

WASHINGTON
IN its last dying hours, the 76th Congress in its report which might well have been labeled: "How to waste the taxpayer's money and the confidence of the American people."

It was the last report of the House committee investigating the Federal Communications Committee. It cost the taxpayers \$110,000. It used up the time of a five-man committee of Congress for two years, plus dozens of FCC officials who had to drop the work they were doing to answer committee questions.

In the end, it reported that nothing was wrong with FCC, praised ex-Chairman Larry Fly, and exonerated Tom Corcoran and Ed Noble of the Blue Network of any wrong-doing in connection with the purchase of station WJMA.

Behind the investigation was the personal vengeance of one man—Congressman Eugene C. Cook, of Georgia. The FCC had learned he accepted a \$2,500 fee from a Georgia radio station for lobbying before the FCC in connection with a wave length, and reported the matter to the Justice Department. The head of the original division recommended prosecution.

Whereupon Cook, one of the most powerful men in Congress, with a whole string of relatives on the public payroll, initiated an investigation of the FCC. For a time he had a field day. He employed as counsel Eugene Garay, one of Roosevelt's bitterest enemies. And with Cox himself sitting as chairman, he rode roughshod over the FCC.

Finally, other Congressional leaders realized that Cox's thirst for blood was blackening the name of all Congressmen and they forced him out. The probe dragged on in the less-biased hands of Congressman Lea of California, in the end giving all those investigating a clean bill of health. Net result was to focus reams of unfavorable and undesired publicity on Noble, Corcoran and Fly whom everyone now concedes did an A-1 job. But more than that it boomeranged and hurt Congress.

As long as one Congressman can use the comradery of his colleagues on Capitol Hill to wield the tremendous investigating powers of Congress in a personal grudge fight, the public is not going to have much faith in our legislative institution.

Hon. Street-Cleaner
Congressman William J. Gallagher, the former Minnesota street-cleaner, has been having quite a time romping around the Capitol since his arrival in Washington.

The other morning, Gallagher sitting in his office alone, answered the phone.

"A Mr. Mann there," asked a voice inquiring for the Congressman's secretary. "No," replied Gallagher. "He ain't here. Who's calling?"

"This is the White House. We'll call back," answered the voice.

"This is your practical joke," said Gallagher, hanging down the phone.

To his surprise, after Gallagher's secretary returned, the Congressman's secretary called Gallagher, "The White House secretaries wanting some information."

Later the same day, Gallagher walked over to the state's Senate caucus room, where he attended the Democratic policy-making powwow. When it was all over, he ambled out of the room, but couldn't get his bearings. "Tom Corcoran," he called Gallagher, at good-natured young Congressman Oatland of California. "How in hell do I get out of here?"

Oatland smiled, showed him the way back to the House Office Building. He didn't tell the gentleman from Minnesota who he was.

Stettinius Spreads
When Secretary Stettinius appeared before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee to urge confirmation of his new assistants, he was asked about press reports that he planned to wrest from Leo Crowley the Foreign Economic Administration—one of the best-run agencies of the Government—and place it under new Assistant Secretary Will Clayton, millionaire cotton king.

Stettinius replied soothingly, and tried to convince the Senators they were unduly worried. But last week a very significant move occurred that looks as if Stettinius was going right ahead with his maneuver.

President Roosevelt, called in Laurence Currie, who has run the FEA for Crowley, and told Currie he could no longer spare him from his regular job as White House Administrative Assistant. Currie has long been attached to the White House, but was loaned to help Crowley run FEA. Now, the President said, he wanted Currie to come back fulltime.

Those who know the score around Washington, see the hand of Stettinius, Harry Hopkins and Clayton behind this bit of Presidential diplomacy. Roosevelt has been able to spare Currie for the past few months without any noticeable ripple around the White House. In view of the manpower shortage, his advisers think he could spare him longer. But that isn't the point.

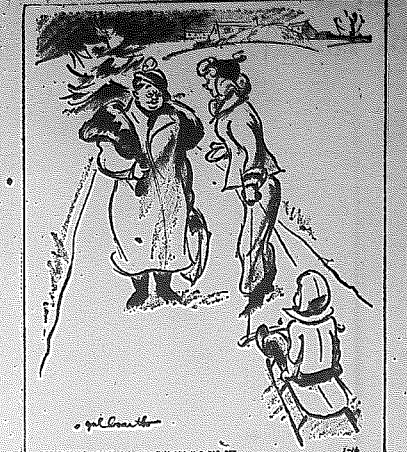
The point is that the State Department wants to echre the Foreign Economic Administration under its steadily expanding wing. Secret plan is to bring ambitious Oscar Cox, who was the brains behind Stettinius in the Lead-Lease Administration, over to the State Department under Clayton. Then Clayton and Cox would run FEA.

Temporarily Respite
The idea that "thanks" are due to us from the recipients of lend-lease is also interesting. If the war is a war for our national survival, why should anyone have thanks for fighting it? That is like expecting thanks for eating dinner, or congratulations for getting out of bed.

A number of American liberals, too, seem to feel that they can pronounce the war to be a people's war on some days, and on other days declare it to be no such thing. They are forever sipping the war good marks and bad marks. Their feeling seems to be that unless we are free to pull away from our allies to "get touch" with them, we have no hope or method for forcing them into an effective world organization.

The exact reverse is true. We are going to get along with our allies, not because we hold over their heads the terrible threat of separating ourselves from them, but because we can't separate ourselves from them. We are going to get along with them precisely because we must, precisely because there is no other way; and they shall get along with us for the same reason. We shall end up in the same world organization because we are in the same boat.

Military Threat to Colleges
EDUCATORS meeting in Atlantic City have expressed strong opposition to the proposed universal military conscription act, and what they have to say deserves the careful consideration of the Congress that has been in session since the last session.



"I'm nearly frozen, but he's just crazy about it. Besides, his father writes from the Pacific that he wants me to tell him in my next letter what it feels like to be cold!"

The Message

By Dorothy Thompson

I HAVE said that the President's declaration of Europe for European people was not only idealism, but keen political realism. I am motivated both by a democratic principle and by American self-interest.

The first principle of the Atlantic Charter, states: "The peoples of all democracies (the Allies) seek no aggrandizement, territorial or other."

The second says: "The United States has no territorial changes that do not accord with the expressed wishes of the people concerned. And the third—They respect the right of all peoples to choose the form of government under which they will live; and wish to see sovereign rights restored to those forcibly deprived of them."

The United States is not a European power. We are not like the Soviet Union, a vast state, an empire, a superpower on the European mainland. We are not, like Great Britain, an island separated from Europe by a mere canal; nor do we hold African colonies in important positions on the Mediterranean.

We cannot, therefore, compete with Britain or Russia for an extension of power or influence in Europe. Any territorial aggrandizement, directly or indirectly, on the part of either of the large European nations upon Europe, will modify their power in relation to each other, and to ourselves.

If victory means a distribution of power, the United States will be the loser. The eventual result would be not an isolated America, but a divided America, or an America compelled, out of sheer necessity, to choose sides again in another world war.

The United States is, therefore, compelled to stick to principles preventing aggrandizement, out of pure self-interest. It takes all the first three points of the Atlantic Charter as defense against European aggrandizement.

Territorial changes through frontier adjustments, unilaterally made by one power, are a form of aggression. The imposition of servile governments upon peoples is an infringement of sovereignty and a fact, if not de jure, aggrandizement.

The sovereign right of people to choose the form of government under which they live, precludes the right of any other nation to veto persons or parties within countries, Allies agreed, namely, Fascists or Nazis. The creation by such means of puppet states is also a form of aggrandizement—as we have learned from one Adolf Hitler.

Aggrandizement can also be effected by structures preventing states from improving their status.

People's Platform
The people of the United States and Great Britain are drawn together by many ties. Before the American Revolution, our states were British provinces. The Declaration of Independence was written by men who called themselves Englishmen.

They desired themselves independent, because they were being oppressed by George III, a German on the British throne, and they could get relief in no other way. Our Constitution and the Bill of Rights were drafted by these men of British descent. Men of British descent developed this great country following the customs, traits and ideals of their ancestors.

Although we are politically not members of the British Commonwealth of Nations, our interests and theirs are so bound together, that should the British fail, we would fall too.