

### **EDITORIAL PAGE** THE CHARLOTTE NEWS

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### lages & Hours

We don't know what kind of wage and hour legislation North Carolina units-and there is a good deal of disagreement as to the kind of legislation in seeds. But it is beyond argument that does need some, soon. This handful of facts should make that apparent:

1. North Carolina is one of the keelre leading industrial states.

2. Its average weekly wage is lower than that of any other state save South

Carolina.

3. It is sird in per capita income.

4. Some North Carolina workers earn as little as nine cents an hour.

5. The average weekly payment of unemployment compensation (having risen during the war to \$10.50) is the loyest in the nation.

In pa payers to a Mora editorial on the

lowest in the nation.

In an answer to a News editorial on the subject of North Carolina's terribly low wage levels, Commissioner of Labor Forrest Shuford wrote, enclosing a proposed minimum wage and maximum hour law for the State. That was printed in full last week, and should have been of considerable importance to readers of all schools and interests.

have been of considerable importance to readers of all schools and interests. It was a moderate proposal, setting a minimum wage of 30 cents an hour-but excepting salaried people carning \$40 or more weekly, agricultural workers, fishermen, domestics, and employees of utilities whose cases are reviewed by the Interstate Commerce Commission. It proposes overtime pay for male and female employees working in excess of eight hours a day, 40 hours a week. It proposes a Wage & Hour Board, with authority to advance the minimum hourly wage as high as 40 cents, providing that is found to be advantageous to the people of the state are with the state of the propose of the state are with the state of the propose of the state are with the propose of the stat

ages. Such a law would aid North Caro-

Such a law would ald North Caro-ima employers by ruling out cut-wase competition, and by the added spending power the minimum wage would bring. It would benefit the state's economy by lightening the burden of public assist-ance for the lowest income groups. It may not stand as a model law because of the fields it does not invade; it may if it is accepted by the Assembly, have to be broadened to eliminate discrimination. But as a start it is entirely acceptable It would be a direct attack on the basic problems of North Carolina's poverty by an enlightened yet wholly deliberate State Government. As such, we wish it good speed through the legislative mill.

### Not This Time

Judging by the reluctance of Congress in the past to adopt a national service act, as President Roosevelt has recommended, the chances of such legislation are not too bright. There would be many complexities under a system in which this man tended a lathe at \$1.50 an hour, the man next to him at \$1.50 an hour, the man next to him at \$1.50 a day, plus food, quarters and the khaki uniform he wore.

Congress would never lend its authority to such an obvious disparity or anything approaching it. Indeed, there is plenty of reason to doubt that the Frestleint himself is whole-heartedly and determinedly behind the universal service he has proposed. For one thing, he didn't sound like it.

loc he has proposed. For one thing, he didn't sound like it.

And for another we have only to go sack to his previous recommendation.

Was made in his address to Congress sast January. At that time, though war production was ample to needs in most items, the war stretched out endiessiry. We had only obtained a foothold on January of the control of t

unless Congress first—

1. Abandoned its two-billion tax bill for his ten-billion version.

2. Combined the renegotation of contracts.

3. Granted continuing with the contracts.

ts.
Granted continuing subsidies for

food-production.

4. Enacted, and promptly, a wage-and price-fixing law.

6. Shacees, and proceedings have and price-flxing law.

He hedged his 1945 recommendation with no such conditions, but there is still room to believe that he raised the threat of compulsion as a means of obtaining results without it. We dare say that this war will be fought on to its end without national service, but that it will be instituted at the very commencement of the next on the mencement of the next one.

### **Balance The Books**

North Carolinians, who are not at all immune to the call of charity, have not answered the challenge in the battle against infamilie paralysis. Assuming that it is proper to reduce this affair to a matter of simple business arithmetic, our account is in arrears.

For the National Foundation for Infamilie Paralysis, since its birth six years ago, has spent well over \$500,000 in North Carolina, fightling this dread dis-

North Carolina, fighting this dread disease. But, in return, the state has given only a little over \$172,000 to this cause. We suppose that the great need for aid in the fight did/not really come home to the people of the state until last Summer, when the pollo epidemic swept through and raged for several months. During that time, of course, the National Foundation spent a great deal of money—and North Carolinians themselves entered into the fight with freely other services and financial aid.

by given services and financial aid.

But we remain in the debt of this humanitarian enterprise, and a time is approaching when we might balance the books. The annual March of Dimes the books. The annual March of Dimes campaign, opening this mouth, challenges us to make a real effort to set a new record in contributions. There is not only the possibility that generous giving will further the great work of the Foundation; it will also put North Carolina on a pay-as-you-ce basis, and fulfill a state responsibility.

### A Compromiser

Senator Burt Wheeler, who is most certainly not on the German pavell (even if his talk does parallel that of Goebbes), wants to have done with what he describes as the "senseless" polley of Unconditional Surrender. This snorting isolationist, you see, wants to bring this bloody business to an end, right now, And because millions of good Americans share that fervent desire, Senator Wheeler's wheedling is dangerous.

right now. And because millions of good Americans share that fervent desire, Senator Wheeler's wheedling is dangerous.

The Montana moon-gazer would have us believe that we could put a stop to the war in Europe by abandoning our present policy, by negotiating a peace with Germany, and setting the world aright. He completely disregards the remaining military power of the enemy. He proposes what would aniount to victory for the Nazis. He insists upon giving Hitter and his henchmen exactly what they have been angling for since D-Day.

He does not take into account the fact that any such negotiated peace at this moment would make eternal heroes of the Nazi leaders in Germany. He has no suggestions as to how we shall break the Nazi power. He just wants peace, on a platter. And peace by an isolationist, you must note, is far more costly than peace by a military man.

This nation, though it realizes the sacrifices ahead, has surely come to realize that it must not leave this task uncompleted, as it did in 1918. It must know in it is mind, even if its heart does ery out for the boys now fighting in the West, that every scrap of German might and presige must be obliterated.

Senator Wheeler and he is not alone—flor or certain columnists sing his same foolish never the senator of the last miles, he would blast the hopes of coming renerations for peace in Europe. He's no more realistic than ever, senator Wheeler. And no more in agreement with the national will. Speaking as he has, at this moment, he has caused us embarrassment in Allied capitals—and brought forth cheers in Berlin. He serves us poorly, even yet.

## An Editorial Dictionary

AN editorial writer's philosophical diction-

Aroused citizenry—Two people who write letters to the paper saying they think that selitorial about crime was pretty good.

Large report asying tirey think that Market and the control of the

in the next,

Outraged sensibilities of all good American—The result of anything said or done

ty (a) Rex Park (next). Herbert Hower;

stand of Letters—Four

Verifable Glood of latters—Seven.

Showed that voters were alert to the grave issues-Any election your candidates

Menace to free government—On days the Old Man has dyspepsia, practically anything. His loss will leave a gap hard to fill-Death of any well-known citizen. (Variety for Will Rogers, wrote the obituary to en all obituaries: "He was quite a guy!")

all oblustics. The was quite a may?"

Leave no stope ulturned—What the police should do after robbers get \$4.56 at the
Olde Booke Nooke.

Affront to civilization—The way some nuthory you don't like runs a win—The
tender of American the was don't give
a damn whether Washington won or lost.

Hardy ploneers of the west—The men who
bought the Indians new and better ways
to the company of the company of the company of the company

True Americanism—The sequences of the company

True Americani

True Americanism—The Sauppression, by force, of everybody who doesn't agree with your definition of true Americanism—From The American Press.

## The Merry-Go-Round

bed—and has been so completely answer by Proof Administration officials that two important men has been as a second of the secon

Lt. Col. George Olmsiead told the Mead Committee February, 1944, WFA had only 385.873 pounds of I food in storage at that time. However, when the per cent of the War Foods checked into only the storage of the War Foods checked into only the storage of the War Foods checked into only the storage of the war foods of the storage of the Fig. 200.000 pounds of 1941 foods.

over £00,000 pounds of 1841 food.
But what has conscientious WFA officials biting
their nails is although most food is considered overage
at from five months to a year, a lot of it doesn't
move out of WFA warehouses until after that period,
move out of WFA warehouses until after that period,
as a around 30,000,000 pounds. The Mead Committee
has been investigating food on hand since 1841, but
has passed up the fact it doesn't take four years to
also up to the fact it doesn't take four years to
deform the source of t

spoil some kinds of food and a great deal of root shorted in 1943. In owe classed as "overage."

Exit Dried Eggs

Last month a WFApsent foregon three 2500 pounds of dried ses powder of a dock into the case, about clishteen months longer than necessary for ried egg powder to spoil and begin to amell. The Good Administration aide have done a good job with food production, but warehousing loves a favor, got a terrific dressing foorm—Foremus WFA.

On the whole Judge Marvin Jones and his War a favor, got a terrific dressing foorm—Foremus WFA.

### The Blue Danube Waltz



## A Threat That Isn't Loaded

By Marguis Childs

By reviving the defunct Dies Committee and giving to a permanent status in the House, a coullition of Southern Democrats, and Northern Republicans started out with a boilt gesture of definance of the Administration.

out with a bold gesture of deflance of the Administration.

It is likely to prove, however, no more than that—an empty gesture. In their rush to crack down on the victors in the November election, the carrious condition appears to have oversectours.

To begin with, Congressman Rankin of Mississippi, whose Ku Klux prejudices have repeatedly come out in death of the control of the

committee.

The chairman of the new committee and the Demo-cratic members will be named by the House Ways and Means Committee. It should be possible to select a nam of discretion who will not use the chairmanship as a seunding beard for political grudges.

What is more, the committee will have to come back to the House to apply for funds over and above the mittees are after the which poets of all standing com-mittees are after the which poets of all standing com-mittees are after the which poets and standing com-mittees are after the which poets and suggested the should be able to stand firm against the tangerous kind

WASHINGTON

WASHINGTON

Itice and sixing

of folly that Martin Dies raid for with generous appropriations granted year after year

on a coulition with a sixing and the repeated of the procedure here's

administration.

It Rankin and his Republican followers had shown

it administration.

If Rankin and his Republican followers had shown

to the procedure here's

arry to gain approval of a special committee such as the

one which Dies hended, their nuisance value would have

been a special committee such as the

one which Dies hended, their nuisance value would have

for the procedure have pro
feeted himself into the headlines as Dies did.

Reblind this centure of defiance are certain fears and

seen into greater, it causes, could then have kent his seen into his process. The country of the

# Congress At Its Worst

By Samuel Grafton

FWHERE was a difference of only five sents between the volum attenute of the Depotitions and that of the Depotitions and that sent the property of the Depotition of the Democratis have less to many, and the Democratis have gained so many, that the markin between the two parties is now liftly-three seats in favor-tween the two parties is now liftly-three seats in favor-tween the two parties is now liftly-three seats in favor-tween the two parties is now liftly have entirely and the property of the property

right, and the Republicans have been losing customers. But instead of opening the season with a new line of goods, we find the Republicans estatically delige have previously falled on the same manner in which they have previously falled on the same manner in which they have previously falled on the same season, by means of a slippery parliamentary mancurer, and without hearings or effective debate, 137 Republicans Jained with 70 Democrats to basis, he do fill the committee on a permanent

re-establish the old Dies Committee on a permanent basis.

Dies himself is no longer a Congressman, a thought which should give any experienced politician a turn; two other prominent members of the old committee, the prominent members of the old committee, and the committee of the committee of

By Samuel Grafton

NEW YORK seats between the last Committee the last

zation of the Congressman's work is under way.
Well, to go back, the worst thing about the Republican re-establishment of the old Dies Committee is that it is counter-trend. The old Symmittee on un-American activities was the leading committee of the pin, the below and the innenends. It was Congress at the committee of the pin, the below and the innenends, it was Congress and the committee of the pin th

anything that it said.

For a majority of Republicans to vote to reestablish this committee (and to accept the leadership)
of Representative Rankin of Missouri in doing solshows that they would much rather spend their aftermons playing back of the gas-works, than in the Birst



"Seriously, boss, if you keep on turning down people who answer our ads because of weight or age, we'll never get anybody for our vacant jobs!"

## Stop, Look, Listen!

By Dorothy Thompson

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NEW YORK
THE public discusson between
It the United States and Britain
has reached a dangerous stage,
Hitherio there have been ultersaice. But now intimental journaise
actes. But now intimental journaise
proposing measures to enforce the
Britain viewpoint.
Inasmuch as these
likely they will
be badly received
with the threat
of counter-measure.

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and some of our publicists have supposed the provided the military viewpoint. Insamuch as these include the military of the war, at it is likely they will be badly received there and possibly of counter-measures to describe the many possibly of counter-measures. This—if it spoot out the war, at it is likely they will be badly received there and possibly ures.

This—if it spoot out the provided the partner in the coalition will be modified by counter-policies of one partner in the coalition will be modified by counter-policies of one the war is over, or after its end. The situation, therefore, its end. The situation of the coalition between the principles of the Atsact of affairs. No one moment of the principles of the Atsact of affairs. No one moment the principles of the Atsact of affairs. No one moment the principles of the Atsact of affairs. No one moment the principles of the Atsact of affairs. No one moment the principles of the Atsact of affairs. No one moment the principles of the Atsact of affairs. No one moment the principles of the Atsact of affairs. No one moment the principles of the Atsact of affairs. No one moment the principles of the Atsact of a state possible affairs of the Atsact of a state possible and the principles of the Atsact of a state possible and the principles of the Atsact of a state possible and the principles of the Atsact of a state possible and the principles of the Atsact of a state public to represent the principles of the Atsact of a state public to represent the provided the account of the principles of the Atsact of a state public to represent the provided the account of the principles of the Atsact of a state public to represent the provided the account of the Atsact of a state public to represent the provided the account of the provided the account of

# People's Platform

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