EDITORIAL PAGE

THE CHARLOTTE NEWS

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Limited Strategy

It may be a hangover from the war, when police reporters became military analysts and weary old desk men emerged as strategic experts, but there seems to be a distressing tendency on the part of the newspapers to report the current resurgence of organized labor in the terms they used to describe Patton's sweep across France.

It depends to some degree upon the complexion of the newspaper, of course, but most front pages leave the impression that a vast, concerted assault is being launched against the ramparts of free enterprise. The strikes in Detroit, Oklahoma and New York are described as preliminary skirmishes, feints, scattered raids, a prelude to the great battle yet to be joined.

We don't think it's quite that simple. Sidney Hillman, William Green, and John Lewis are all heading in the same general direction, but we doubt if they are poring over a map together, deciding which flank to turn next. There is no indication that the CIOs and the AFLs have joined hands, or are even on speaking terms. And within the ranks of individual unions there are signs of dissent. Locals keep jumping the gun and ignoring orders from the high command to get back in line and wait for the bugle.

It doesn't make Secretary Schwellenbach's problem any simpler. It would be fine if he could sit down with some sort of labor general staff and work out terms. Instead, he has to deal with scores of individual labor leaders aiming for a variety of goals. Most of them, it is true, are interested primarily in more money, or at least in the continuation of the high wages brought on by the war. But beyond that there are dozens of considerations, all of great importance to union professionals.

Americans, organized or unorganized, remain individuals, and the national labor problem remains the sum of a thousand local labor problems.

Voices Of The Past

Th effectiveness of the Full Employment Bill, as planned by the Administration, was not destroyed by the dead forces of reaction. It was not the scheming Old Guard, glaring dully out at a new world, that pulled its teeth. The job was done by men who simply do not believe that we can make our way to prosperity by blithely spending to an ever-larger deficit. These enemies of the plan were not vicious old-timers soured by ancient and outmoded ideologies. They just didn't believe $25 a week for millions of workers in transition would ease the way into peacetime prosperity.

But there were certain enemies of the bill who did sound like voices out of the dead past. Some of their utterances have an incredible ring in our time. Senator Murray of Montana (a staunch supporter of the original bill) revealed a number of those comments from the extreme right in last week's *Collier's*. They seem important only because they reveal an enmity for the very idea of full employment, and support a vicious and archaic system of enforced misery for the sake of prosperity.

Senator Murray doesn't call names, but makes the picture clear enough. One man wrote his committee while it was holding hearings, "Private competitive capitalism needs a floating pool of unemployed." Another testified: "Unemployment is necessary to maintain labor discipline and keep wages down. We prefer footing the bill for relief to assuring full employment."

An economist for a large company told the Cleveland Welfare Federation, "We can have as much unemployment as we're willing to pay for . . . the right to a job is a communistic doctrine. We prefer the old American slogan, 'Root, hog, or die.'" Another corporation economist said, "The moral obligation to keep any citizen from starving can be more adequately and cheaply fulfilled in other ways than by providing jobs." And the New York State Chamber of Commerce approved a report which said, "Depressions are the price we pay for freedom."

We aren't convinced that the American public would vote overwhelmingly for full employment under the scheme originally outlined, but we're persuaded that they would vigorously reject this reactionary counsel which is so distasteful to Senator Murray. If he has done no more than reveal that this state of mind still exists in some quarters, the Senator has performed a noteworthy service.

One Made Music

Time, measured in the passing of generations, makes for wonderful contrasts. It has brought an old man named Carl Sandburg to the North Carolina hills to live in the house where an old man named Ellison Adger Smythe passed his last, quiet years. The new tenant is a professed common man, a poet-journalist-historian who has devoted most of his life to establishing the greatness of Abraham Lincoln. The departed owner was a Charleston aristocrat, a Confederate soldier who applied the word common only to inferior grades of cotton and citizenry.

When Carl Sandburg was growing up in Galesburg, Illinois, absorbing the Lincoln legend and listening with his poet's ear to the sound of America, Captain Smythe was adding up the columns of figures that told the story of a new industry building on the wreckage of reconstruction. He founded cotton mills, then banks, and if he didn't create an empire in the Piedmont he certainly carved out a barony.

Both men were creators: Smythe made money, Sandburg made music. The void between their careers was immeasurable. The Captain became president of the American Cotton Manufacturers Association at about the time Sandburg was breaking the bounds of journalistic prose and bringing out a volume of verse decrying the Chicago race riots.

Sandburg is coming to Connemara, the old Smythe estate at Flat Rock, to rest, pluck his guitar, and sing folk ballads. He hasn't said so, but apparently he believes his creative days are over. He should be warned that it didn't work out that way for his predecessor. The Captain turned over the bulk of his holdings to his heirs when he came to Connemara, but he kept for himself the little Balfour mill at Hendersonville. And every day, almost to the day he died, he rode down to the office and pulled up to his roll-top desk.

Thus the magnificent Lincoln history that now stands as Sandburg's chief legacy may not yet be complete. There may be more to come, wrung out of the old poet by the restless ghost of the old Confederate.

Unreconstructed

One of the stoutest disciples of free private enterprise of our acquaintance is a young lady of three who staged a robust rebellion against Congressional authority over the week-end. The Washington edict shifting our lives from war time to standard time meant less than nothing to her. Her calm defiance of Federal authority, we suppose, was repeated all over the country Sunday and Monday, and if all moppets were as successful as she, we've days of misery ahead of us.

Saturday evening, for example, she suddenly and perversely reversed her usual policy of dawdling about before bedtime. She demanded to be put to bed at 7:30 sharp, and she'd have none of the vague explanation that time was to be set back an hour overnight. And on Sunday morning of course, she was up and about at six o'clock, her digestive system still on the old schedule. She saw through every parental attempt to postpone her breakfast, her Sunday School trip, her lunch, her nap—and her bedtime.

When it was explained that this new system would benefit the farmers, she wanted to know if she was a farmer, and maintained persistently throughout that when dark came it was bedtime, that when she got hungry it was meal time. Through Sunday and Monday her struggling parents did not gain a minute on the new schedule, though they had wearied themselves with a later hour for bedtime, only to be assaulted in the precious last hours of sleep by the clamorous little rebel.

The signs are that these irregularities will drag on for another week or so, upsetting the carefully laid Congressional plans in countless American homes. We feel strongly that Congressmen should be called home to make explanation of the new scheme to the persistent little dissenters of the home front.

North Carolina Looks Ahead

Another In A Series Taken From A Report By The State Planning Board

AGRICULTURE in North Carolina is varied enough to furnish raw materials for widely varied manufactures. The State has three great crops which move into manufacturing in their entirety: tobacco, cotton, (harvested) peanuts. It has other sizable crops some part of which are processed in industry: wheat, corn, soy beans and hogs. It has still others, smaller but fairly concentrated in definite localities, which at present go to consumer markets direct from the farm: peaches, berries, vegetables, potatoes and chickens. An examination of some of these in detail reveals specific resources for specific industries and in some cases, even the logical location for them.

In the field of livestock production, North Carolina is far below a desirable standard for proper balance in a State so largely agricultural. And yet, in every important classification, livestock increased between 1930 and 1940:

	Per Cent Increase 1930 to 1940
Cows and calves	16
Cows and heifers kept mainly for milk production	25
Cows and calves kept mainly for beef production	66
Cows milked	15
Milk produced, 1939 over 1929	15
Hogs and pigs on farms	36
Sows and gilts	63
Chickens on farms	15
Chickens raised, 1939 over 1929	18
Chickens sold, 1939 over 1929	26
Eggs produced, 1939 over 1929	7

In the case of hogs, North Carolina has an over-all deficit, but the Eastern part of the State has a surplus for meat packing. A basis for comparison was obtained by adding the hogs and pigs butchered on farms to those sold alive less those bought alive on farms, and dividing by the population. The average for the United States is .304 hogs per capita; for North Carolina, .296 per capita. But there are twelve counties in Eastern North Carolina (Currituck, Camden, Perquimans, Chowan, Gates, Martin, Tyrrell, and Hyde in the northeast, and Jones, Onslow, Duplin, and Pender in the southeast) where the per capita average ranged from 1.03 to 2.22, or from 2 1/2 to 6 times the national average. In nineteen other counties, contiguous to the above twelve and including almost every county in the coastal plan area, there was a surplus. On the basis of the national per capita average these counties butchered or sold alive (net after deducting those bought alive on farms for raising, fattening, butchering, etc.) a surplus of 279,496 hogs. In many of the counties the number butchered on farms was well above the national per capita consumption and is to be accounted for by one or both of two facts: local marketing of farm butchered and cured meats, and larger than normal consumption of pork products in the families concerned. These counties sold alive (net) 215,589 hogs.

Even this smaller figure represents a supply large enough for several plants. The average meat packing plant in the United States used 31,500 hogs in 1939; in North Carolina only 5,400; in Virginia 14,900; in Tennessee 33,200; in Georgia 49,200. In great meat producing and packing states like Nebraska, the average number per processing plant is 57,000; in Illinois, 78,500; in South Dakota, 125,000. These 215,000 surplus hogs in North Carolina constitute a resource for manufacturing nearly three times the number of hogs reported by the Consus of Manufactures as used by the meat packing industry in the whole North Carolina, 76,606 in 1939. However, it is unlikely that many of these Eastern Carolina surplus-hogs were among those reported for the packing industry of the State. There were very few processed in the coastal plain—as late as 1943 only 3 of the 21 North Carolina plants were in this area, with a personnel of 112 out of 675 in the State. The North Carolina plants are mostly in the central land upper Piedmont areas; although there is a per capita deficit of hogs in this part of the State as compared with the national average, there are considerable numbers moving from farm to market alive, besides a fair number of cattle and calves. Anyhow, the lanes of marketing and transportation from Eastern North Carolina are northward rather than westward. A packing plant in southern Sampson or Duplin Counties would be within a 50-mile haul of more than 60,000 hogs now sold alive. Or a plant in western Bladen and one in Onslow would be within 50 miles of 59,000 and 35,000 respectively. A plant in, say, Edenton, would be within 50 miles of over 100,000 hogs now sold alive.

It is not implied that every one of these surplus hogs in the coastal area would be available for new plants. Some are now processed in the small plants already there; some are butchered, a few at the time, and retailed without additional processing by local butchers. But many go outside the State that could be processed in the counties producing them, counties which need manufacturing establishments and jobs and the profits that come from converting these hogs into fresh meats, cured meats, lard, sausage, and other products.

There's No Place Like Home

The Merry-Go-Round

By Drew Pearson

WASHINGTON

DEMOCRATIC members of the House Ways & Means Committee last week saw President Truman, for the first time since he became President, hopping mad at Congress. They received a call Wednesday afternoon from Chairman "Muley Bob" Doughton asking all Democrats to be at the White House at ten the next morning. Having just agreed to shelve the Unemployment Compensation Bill, they had a pretty clear idea of what was coming.

Little time was wasted in pleasantries. The President had only a curt nod or "hello" for the members as they came in, then plunged at once into his subject. The unemployment compensation features provided in his message must be enacted, he said, before he could feel that Congress has done the job the people expect of it. For over 45 minutes, the President sat and discussed the bill with the Congressmen, and not a single smile cracked his face.

Closest he came to a smile was when he said: "President Roosevelt always used to rely upon the House to help him out against the Senate. I thought I could rely upon the Senate. "But," the former Senator from Missouri added, "it looks like I'm having a little trouble there now."

Early in the conference, Representatives Dingell of Michigan, Eberharter of Pennsylvania and Forand of Rhode Island told the President that they agreed with his program and would like to see the House vote the $25 and 26-week provisions the Senate had knocked out. Chairman Doughton, half-hearted author of a bill including these provisions but not the full Kilgore bill, glared fiercely, while Forand reminded the President that he had himself introduced a bill calling for everything in the Kilgore bill.

Various members spoke up, trying to explain their positions. Chairman Doughton had grave doubts whether $25 would not make the labor situation worse by stimulating idleness. However, the President refuted arguments about strikes and States' rights even before they were raised.

"This need of the American people—who worked hard all through the war—for a small measure of help in tiding them over this Winter's unemployment—has nothing to do with strikes. Today's strikes are no argument so far as this bill is concerned."

Strike Action Coming

Cautiously, he added, "and I may be doing something about the strikes before long."

One argument Truman didn't answer in advance was that offered by Representative Sid Camp of Georgia. Camp agreed with several other members—Mills of Arkansas, West of Texas and Gregory of Kentucky—that $25 per week was a high figure for compensation payments.

"In my state, my folks wouldn't feel any too good about that," Camp told his colleagues. "Hardly any of them would be able to collect $25 a week because they'd have had to be earning twice that much while they were working in order to be eligible for the $25. And $50 a week is an awful high figure for Georgia."

Truman made it clear among other things that he was absolutely opposed to Illinois Senator Scott Lucas' bill returning the U. S. Employment Service to the States. They must be operated by the Federal Government, Truman maintained, at least for a year.

Although he didn't say a single word which, on paper, would look harsh, the President was really sore, the members agreed. If they had met with him the previous afternoon—at the time he had issued the invitation—they figured they would have received a real dressing-down.

Congresswoman In a Harem

The fabulous Ibn Saud, absolute ruler over millions of Arabs, broke the precedent of centuries by greeting a lady outside a harem. She was white-haired Mrs. Frances Bolton, Republican Congresswoman from Cleveland.

Ibn Saud refused to sit down at dinner with Mrs. Bolton, however, and she had her dinner in Ibn Saud's harem, while six male Congressmen ate camel meat and various other delicacies at the table of the King himself.

Mrs. Bolton had accompanied the Congressmen to the Palace, even though it was not expected that she would be permitted an audience with the King. She entered his presence with the men, despite the growls of outraged Arab courtiers. After greeting Mrs. Bolton, Ibn Saud discreetly suggested that she might like to visit the Harem, which she did.

The Congresswoman from Ohio stayed with the King's ladies through most of the visit, but returned to the men later, dressed in native costume. At that particular moment, the King was complaining to the Congressmen about the high cost of living, and roughly grabbed hold of Mrs. Bolton's robe to illustrate in detail the cost of each part of her costume.

Seeing that the men in the party had been given full native costumes and various other gifts, Mrs. Bolton made no offer to return the garments given her.

Mississippi Carpet-Baggers

Truman's tough-talk with the Ways & Means Committee went directly counter to the confidential letter the White House had sent to Senator Barkley of Kentucky in which the $25-a-week payment was listed as "desirable" but not "indispensable."

Credit for writing Barkley this letter, now found to be directly contrary to Truman's real stand, is given to George Allen, who is turning out to be the most potent mystery figure around the White House.

The best story-teller in the Capitol (with the exception of Chip Robert), Allen was transplanted to Washington by Senator Pat Harrison of Mississippi, and has thrived here ever since. First he was commissioner of the District of Columbia, later became vice-president of the Home Insurance Co., which he still is.

But the smartest thing George ever did was to attach himself to the Truman Vice-Presidential campaign train last year and become the close buddy of the man who was to be President. While big-shot politicians were hanging around Roosevelt, George Allen traveled with the neglected Vice-President, amused him and helped write his speeches.

So now, Allen is constantly around the White House, a potent, charming, and very reactionary adviser. He was even consulted about the three new judges for the Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia—which may be one reason why Truman picked three ex-supporters of the power companies. He was also given credit for working with Leo Crowley suddenly to terminate Lend-Lease. Finally he is credited with authoring the Senate memo which undermine the Kilgore $25-a-week compensation bill.

Statesmen At Work

(Serious, facetious and comic excerpts from the Congressional Record).

REP. COX (Ga.) Mr. Speaker, the subject matter of the bill, the consideration of which the pending resolution is intended to make in order, is the tidewater lands and the lands covered by navigable streams in the country. The bill is made necessary because of the recent assertion of the right of Federal control made by the Department of the Interior, and in response to which suit was filed by the Attorney General against a citizen in the State of California, which cast a cloud upon a title which has never heretofore been questioned by the Government.

Mr. RANKIN. Is there any opposition to this resolution?

Mr. COX. I know of no opposition. I am confident there is not a member of this House, having taken the pains to examine this question, entertains the slightest doubt as to the merits of the proposal.

Mr. RANKIN. The reason I asked that question is that I can see no reason for opposing it, and I was wondering why it is necessary to have three hours of general debate on it?

Mr. COX. Considering the bill under the pending rule affords opportunity to many members of this body to get off their chests good speeches which they have prepared. It at least gives opportunity to members to preach a good doctrine.

Mr. RANKIN. Does the gentleman mean they have some submarginal speeches in their system to get off?

Mr. COX. I can think of nothing that oppresses one more than missing the opportunity to deliver a speech which has been carefully prepared.

Mr. RICH. I am for States' rights and everything that belongs to the States, but I am thinking this in my own mind and I wonder if the gentleman can enlighten me on it. Insofar as the coast line of our country is concerned, is there anything in this bill that will cause the Federal Government to be prohibited in any way from exercising its rights now along our coast line?

Mr. COX. Not the slightest. The bill recognizes the right of control in the Federal Government of all the tidewaters and all the navigable streams, for the purpose of commerce and navigation.

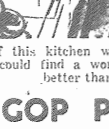
"I'm tired of this kitchen work—I'd get married in a minute if I could find a woman who could really cook better than I do!"

GOP Plotters

By Marquis Childs

WASHINGTON

TOO MANY people are writing as though all the evidence on Pearl Harbor were finally in. That is a dangerous assumption.



We have been told that Governor Dewey declined to use the knowledge he had obtained as to the breaking of the Japanese code prior to Pearl Harbor after an appeal from General Marshall who, as Chief of Staff, warned that to do so might cost American lives.

The effort is to make it seem that President Roosevelt participated in an elaborate plot to "get us into" the war. This comes, for the most part, from the isolationists who blocked every move to prepare the country to meet a possible attack; the isolationists who kept repeating that nothing could harm America at the very time when the Nazis had put every German scientist to searching for an atomic explosive.

The evidence is not in by any means, and the conclusions based on partial evidence are likely to look rather foolish. Nor did everyone in the Republican party share Governor Dewey's conviction of Roosevelt's guilt. I can reveal the following episode that took place as the tragedy of Pearl Harbor neared its climax.

On December 5, 1941, President Roosevelt dictated a letter to Wendell L. Willkie. That letter dealt largely with the semi-official invitation that Willkie had received from Australia to visit that country. This—it must be remembered, was against the background of Willkie's highly successful visit to England early in 1941.

Then he spoke about the danger of an armed clash with Japan. He spoke of the "forward progress" of the Japanese against the Philippines, Java and Malaya. He said that an armed clash could come at any moment.

The letter was not mailed until Dec. 8, Roosevelt wrote on it, in his own hand, a postscript saying that it had been dictated Friday morning (Dec. 7 was Sunday) "long before this vile attack."

Willkie showed that letter to several people. Its existence was known to the high command of the Dewey campaign. In fact, they made strenuous efforts to obtain it, hoping that it would serve as documentation, however, slight, for the charge that Roosevelt allowed Pearl Harbor to happen.

Apparently Willkie did not think that the letter showed any such culpability. At any rate, it is a fact that before his death he took steps to keep that document out of the reach of those who wanted to make political use of it. That was one of the last acts of his life.

It is so easy to rationalize what might have been. It is so easy to use phrases like "public opinion" and "telling the people the truth."

It seems to me that Roosevelt might have gone much further in telling us all what the realities were. But saying that, you have to remember that at the same time there were powerful forces—powerful organs of opinion—bent on keeping back the truth and branding Roosevelt as a warmonger.

The enemy had made his intentions perfectly clear. While the Tanaka memorial may not be an authentic document, it did reveal as early as 1927 the step-by-step plan for Japanese conquest of the world. A lot of it came true in Asia in the Thirties.

Wendell Willkie had come to understand the trial and the crisis we were going through. He would not lend himself to the effort to convict Roosevelt of a childish plot to "get us into war."

People's Platform

The Smear Campaign

By B. H. EIDSON

Charlotte

It is good to see that THE NEWS refuses to be taken in by the carefully planned campaign to besmirch the late President Roosevelt, by trying to discredit his work in the round-about way of making issues out of such irrelevant attacks upon members of his family. You'll find it in Shakespeare, this system now being put to use:

". . . no, 'tis slander
Whose edge is sharper than
the sword; whose tongue
Outvenoms all the worms of
the Nile; whose breath
Rides on the posting winds,
and doth belie
All corners of the world;
kings, queens and states,
Maids, matrons, children, nay
the secrets of the grave
This viperous slander enters."

Perhaps, they dream, if you can do something to Elliott Roosevelt, the people may forget that in 1933 there was hardly an open bank between Charlotte and Charleston, that despair, hunger and misery were written on our faces.

Roosevelt became President when Hitler became Fuehrer. Civilization stood at the crossroads. When hunger and destitution take over the path can lead to totalitarianism or the rougher road to recovery wherein you retain the basic principles of freedom. Here was a man who brought his country out of chaos without interrupting the processes of freedom, one iota.

During the most trying days no less than 85 per cent of the free press in America was against Roosevelt and openly gave vent to their opposition in varying degrees from honest constructive advice to vicious vituperation. Not a spoke in the wheel of civil liberty did Mr. Roosevelt interfere with, but within a year or two he restored to America its good humor, its perennial hope and its greatness.

Men can always organize against change. They can shout "Red," they can form new parties and organizations backed with huge funds, but if unemployment and destitution are still great among the people, nothing can hold back the tide, and calumny, hate and slander only tend to make the flood more destructive. It was at such a point that President Roosevelt appeared on the scene and dispirited the enlarging cancer of Fascism and totalitarianism, and it was he who saved the American way of free enterprise and the American way of life.

They who hate him most have reason to like him best, but with the shortsightedness of all their predecessors, they doubtless believe they can destroy what Roosevelt stood for and return to a civilization based on their own terms. All this hue and cry about members of his family is part of the foolish attempt to discredit Roosevelt, but in the long run, all these measures will never rise above the category of plain ordinary mischief that misfired.

Dewey Is A Hero, She Says

By MRS. CHARLIE M'GAHA

High Shoals, N. C.

In last week's News you called Thomas Dewey a hero. Of course you did that in a sarcastic manner. Yes, Tom Dewey is a hero in more ways than one. He did do a good deed to spare American lives by not telling all he knew in his campaign. But you can't say the same thing of his opponent. Mr. Dewey did not tell lies and make wild promises to get elected like his opponent.

Do you remember (I doubt that you'll admit it) that Mr. Roosevelt said no mother's son would fight on foreign soil? Well, they haven't been fighting in the USA. That was Roosevelt's promise. Yes, I'll say Dewey is a hero, a gentleman, a decent, upright, Christian man.

So you had no one else to babble about and you took up ragging Sen. Wherry because he was protecting Gen. MacArthur. Yes, Mr. Wherry was right about the Reds and the whole bunch connected with them. We all know the New Deal is mostly made up of Russian Reds. Didn't Hillman, Browder and those Communists elect FDR? They were his own bedfellows.

So now they are trying to find fault with MacArthur, the man who stuck with his job to the finish, while Acheson and the whole bunch of droops didn't help shoot any Japs. Acheson is just another big job holder living off the taxpayers just as the other three million yellow dogs who have worked for the vote-getting New Dealers. That's the only way the New Deal crowd could elect themselves.

So, if I were you I would keep my big mouth shut. All the American people aren't crazy. Even if you are wrong, Mr. Wherry was right.

(Madam, we're practically speechless. Do you mean the war was a farce, and Pearl Harbor a Roosevelt trick?—Editors, The News).