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An Isolationist Bypath

When Charles M. Johnson, North Carolina's treasurer, arose to address the Citizens Association he sounded like an outraged banker, condemning the Federal Government for spending \$275 billion dollars to Great Britain at a time when its own books are out of balance to the tune of some 275 billion dollars.

We can understand how Mr. Johnson, repeating his time-serving cry of the reason of public money flowing out from his office is balanced by the stream of dollars flowing in, would be disturbed by this spectacle. From the book-keeping standpoint the loan does appear profitable, for a quick glance at the Federal balance sheet indicates a condition perilously close to bankruptcy.

There are, however, a few factors involved other than the desirability of making two columns of figures come out even. It is probably true that we cannot continue to maintain such a tremendously unbalanced budget and that someday the Federal Government, like any of the rest of us, will have to pay a heavy penalty for living beyond its means.

The Homing Congressmen

The long, fitful 1945 session of Congress has ended, and the weary solons are on their way home for Christmas, leaving, we hope, for a few weeks of rest and contemplation. The gentlemen will have a great deal to think back on.

In an inverted sort of way the year saw a great reversion of Congressional authority. Franklin Roosevelt, the man who had dominated the legislative branch for so long, died, and his successor, recently elected from a Senate seat himself, held a huge olive branch as he approached the Capitol to inaugurate his term.

In the four months since the end of the war the gentlemen have had a field day, rejecting every major recommendation made by the new President, jumping party lines with marked agility, and generally contributing to the confusion of the whole world.

A Great Precedent

The Carolina Israelite regards the appointment of O. Max Gardner, North Carolina's former governor, to the Commission on Palestine as "a happy choice." Mr. Gardner, the Israelite points out, has a proper background for this difficult and extremely important task, and in accepting it, he is following a precedent established many years ago by North Carolina statesmen.

It was Zebulon Vance, in his address, "The Scattered Nation," who first called for the rebirth of a Jewish Palestine, and Mr. Gardner's appointment, The World War executive, was among the first to petition President Wilson to join England in guaranteeing the Balfour Declaration.

Juvenile Death Penalty

The public prints have it that the North Carolina Supreme Court has affirmed the death sentence passed upon a boy, 14 or 15 years of age, according to the jury verdict, committed a capital crime.

Against such sentences and affirmations thereof, this and other newspapers of the State have long protested. Fortunately, when the courts impose such sentences anon, the Governor usually commutes them. We sincerely trust that Governor B. Gregg Cherry will thus act in the case of the State against this boy.

From the standpoint of legal technicality the courts may feel bound to impose and affirm capital sentences against those defendants, regardless of their ages, whose crimes are within the legal definition of criminal acts which in this State are punishable by death.

But above and beyond all legal technicalities lies the truth that a 14 or 15-year-old boy is immature mentally as well as physically—that he is not under the laws of this State responsible for his civil acts—that he cannot marry, or bear arms, or serve in the military without the written consent of his parents—that he cannot quit public school—that he cannot obtain a part-time or Summer vacation job without a special certificate or permit from the welfare department.

Imposing the same or other restrictions about the life and activities of a boy in his middle teens the State of North Carolina proclaims that a child of this age is by no means an adult— that he is mentally and emotionally irresponsible. The fact that a boy of this age may

Veterans Can't Get Clothes But The Ladies Can

CHIEF dilemma faced by the returning war veteran when he comes to a new clothing store is that either he will get clothes or his wife and sweet heart will get them. There is nothing new here, but it is enough for both.

In this choice between clothes for himself and for his wife, the veteran is in no question as to where the U. S. Government stands, at least in theory on this point. He has been away fighting, his old clothes are moth-eaten, and he deserves something to wear when he comes home. However, may be an other matter.

Breakdown of the entire problem boils down to linings. Wool clothing for men must have linings. This means that the wool and worsted situation is improving and there is probably will be almost enough for 1946.

But rayons and cottons are different. In the place most of their production was allocated to war uses and it takes some time to get back to peacetime production, and here is where the sex problem comes in, most of the rayon available for men's wear has been going to women.

Other words, women are getting the rayon blouses, the slips, the undies and other things they like to wear. Meanwhile the men's more prosaic but absolutely necessary lining for men's suits is left in the cold.

THE current confusion and dis-appointment in the minds of democratic Americans in relation to the problems of American-Soviet unity prompt me to attempt to dispel the fog of misrepresentation and false analysis of certain "problems" which have taken place since the end of the war.

Joseph Stalin's most recent public words on record are his concluding remarks to Senator Claude Pepper, of Florida, in a Kremlin interview.

NO COMMENT
Present Harry Truman isn't stirring his neck out on the 1948 political race yet.

RUSSIA NEEDS BOWLES
If you think Chester Bowles has made mistakes in proceeding the U. S. consumer, look at what happened in Russia, supposed to be the haven of the common man.

ONE CORRECTIVE
The only corrective for such dangerous and provocative talk is to try to see the world situation objectively and to judge the Soviet Union as it really is.



William Howard Melish

An Objective Look At The Russians

NOTE: This appraisal of Russo-American relations was prepared by the National Council of American-Soviet Friendship, Inc., which includes among its membership such intellectuals as Eugene O'Neill and Maxwell Anderson, such politicians as Senator Saltonstall and Interior Secretary Welch, such educators as Ralph Barton Perry and Frank Aydelotte. The Council's chairman is Corliss Lamont, the financier.—Eds. THE NEWS.

Union objectively, as Stalin asked of Senator Pepper. Objectively, it is the Soviet Union and not the United States that should fear unilateral action and the absence of world cooperation.

FRENCH RESPONSIBILITY
Objectively, it is not Russia, but France that is responsible for the Allied failure in Germany, as Byron Price has reported.

ATOMIC DIPLOMACY
The heading collision with our greatest wartime ally has been stimulated by two other factors—our "atomic diplomacy," based upon exclusive possession, and secondly, an obvious feeling of uncertainty and self-doubt.

THE PEOPLE'S PLATFORM
OF Christmas Past...



"Well, they got nice rooms in back of the store, but they won't rent unless we buy the store!"

Objectively, the United States agrees with Russia that Turkey's present monopolistic grip on the Dardanelles is relaxed. All these objectives appraisals add up to the Soviet Union's present skeptical attitude toward Anglo-American deals, as contrasted with Anglo-American aims.

Objectively, it is patent that no world organization can be any better than the relations among the Big Three.

It is a suggestion that not many Americans have taken. Instead, we have been egged on by the professional clique of Russia-haters in Congress, and by the neo-Fascist organizations which the war has failed to exterminate, into an unprecedented anti-Soviet campaign, based not upon facts but upon rumors.

ALL YIFE
To tell the truth, I have worked in a cotton mill all my life. I have never before seen work stretched out so much as it has in the past ten years, with no rest pay. I'll say in the last ten years, we've had an 18 per cent increase in wages, and work is three times as hard.

ONE POSITIVE MEASURE
Among the few positive measures we have taken for reconversion has been a law granting corporate tax relief, to speed peacetime production.

NO PLAN AT ALL
It is quite obvious that our reconversion plan is not to plan; we have decided (and it is not Mr. Truman's fault alone) that we will just let the market take care of us individually out of a three hundred billion dollar war, each of us with his hand in the pocket of his own pocket.

SKYROCKETING BOOM
What has been happening during this fourth quarter is a sharp rise in the price of goods. The price of goods is about 20 per cent higher than in the previous year. According to the Department of Commerce, this was due to the fact that we have found before gasoline rationing went into effect and about 19 per cent below the peak of January 1942.

"The Department of Commerce estimates that total national income for 1945 will be \$74,000,000,000 which compares with \$75,484,000,000 for 1944 and with \$48,388,000,000 for 1940. The total for the current year is nearly twice that for 1928 when the figure was \$16,800,000,000. Part of this increase represents, of course, a jump not in the volume of goods sold but in the dollar value of prices. In fact, it may account for a very large proportion of the increase of 1945 over 1944.

The Sprain Retail Prices

AS the stores continue to be jammed from morning to night, there seems to be no doubt but that retail prices records will be broken this year.

People seem determined to spend their money. If they can't find what they want they talk around there to buy. Frankly, some people have been unable to buy at all. The rush of buyers who grab things off the shelves and get away has been noted.

In order to get around price controls, manufacturers have resorted to such expedients. In this area of uncontrolled spending they have been able to get away with it. Buyers have taken the highest cost goods, even when it was fairly obvious that the quality was not there. The hidden inflation factor, which has been pointed out in official figures that show the cost of living in cities up 27.9 per cent since January of 1941.

FILLING STATION BOOM

Consumers dollars are pouring into the filling stations. Filling station sales in the fourth quarter are up about 20 per cent higher than in the previous year. According to the Department of Commerce, this was due to the fact that we have found before gasoline rationing went into effect and about 19 per cent below the peak of January 1942.

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AMERICAN planes and guns are being bombed and shot down by the Japanese. Objectively, it is patent that no world organization can be any better than the relations among the Big Three.

A Planless Reconversion

THERE is another butter shortage, and the Wall Street Journal informs us it is due partly to the fact that the Office of Price Administration is not a modification of its restrictions on the use of cream in ice cream. The article is like the fuel oil situation, brought to our notice through the Wall Street Journal.

RECONVERSION
A reconverting America would rather ride its car wheels on a makeshift track than set a new record for its production.

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