

EDITORIAL PAGE THE CHARLOTTE NEWS

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The Loans Trade

Let it not-be taken for granted, just e a bill to eradicate loan sharks as been introduced in the Legislature. that a suitable law will be passed. Similar bills have come up before, and met equally cordial receptions. In the end,

This has not been due to chicanery. hough the Legislature has been ap-mached by some pretty high-priced byists on behalf of the loan sharks. On the face of it, interest running up to 40, 50, 200% is usury doubled and re doubled, and everybody is against i The disagreement that deadlocks bills comes when the Legislature essays to legitimatize an interest rate in excess

Loans in small amounts to borrowers Loans in small amounts to borrovers without collateral and of uncertain financial, responsibility cannot be made at 9% or anything like it. After deducting the expense of deing business—maintaining an office and paying employees, keeping records, making credit investigations, collecting the dough—the game wouldn't be worth the candic. On a \$25.00 loan, for example, 6% interest would come to only \$1.50 a year. If the lender failed to get back the principal sum, it would take the integers on a score of such loans to put him where he started from.

Secretary and the time where the started rate house to put him where he started rate house their side of the started rate in small amounts. We don't recognize the validity of soliciting loans in small amounts. We don't recognize it. We believe, on the contrary, that it constitutes a public disservice and an economically unsound extension of credit on top of credit. For the most of the borrowers of small loans are person who are compelled to borrow in order to catch up with their other borrowings. If it is, by chance, a first offense, it will be an introduction to a victous and habit-forming circle.

The bill to regulate the small-loans business in North Carolina evades that issue of public necessity and leaves up to the State Bänking Commission the formulation of rules by which such enterprises may operate. By thus ducking the argument, it may get by, and the commission will have the kettle of fish to fry. We wouldn't like the job. For the fact is that it is impossible to conduct a business which is economically and morally unsound on any basis which the State could countenance.

49th State

Representative Joe Ervin, who is not averse to dropping important bills in the hopper-of the House simply because he is a freshman Congressman, is after making Alaska the 49th state of the Union. Aside from striring up a dickens of a lot of trouble for flag designer. The proper to design the string that the strength of the proper to design the strength of the string that the string that the string that the strength of the string that the string that the string that the strength of the string that the stri

the Union. Aside from stirring up a dickens of a lot of trouble for flag designers, the move to induct this great Territory into statehood is a big business deal.

It involves the transfer of 586,400 square miles of territory (an area equal to that embraced by Maryland, Virginia, West Virginia, Tennessee, Kentucky, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georga, Florida, Alabama, Mississippi, Louislana and Missouri). It involves, also, the transfer of over 72,000 people of a population which increased 23 per cent between 1930 and 1940.

Alaska is an undeveloped region of only eight populated places boasting population of 1,000 or more (or, was in 1940). It has only 23 incorporated towns, with a total assessed valuation of something over \$45,000,000. Its territory runs from the Bering Sea, where Siberia is almost within sight, to the Arctic Sea, far out to the tip of the Alectuans, and down the Canadian coast hard by the Alexander Archipelago. Its climate ranges from the zero-to-eighty area on the Pacific to the wild interior where the thermometer varies 150 degrees, Summer to Winter.

area on Auges indicated the wild interior where the me Pacific to the wild interior where the me Pacific to the wild interior where the second of the packets and have scarcely been touched; thanks and have scarcely been touched; thanks to government control. In the coastal forests alone, the annual cut from reservations is about 50 million board feet. The combined wild life resources of the Territory are estimated at \$100,000,000. The annual value of its manufactured fishery products is about \$50,000,000. The output of its mining industry is valued at over \$23,000,000 a, year, Its production of coal and production, scarcely begun, is rapidly increasing, its trade is almost exclusively with the

United States. Its chief exports are gold, allver, salmon, furs and akins.

We bought Alaska from Russia in 1867 for \$7,200,000—or a little over \$12 per square mile. Rep. Ervin wants to each in on our investment now, to be ready for a period of post-war expansion.

Is This The End? "

Today Dorothy Thompson's readers will follow her words with a mounting excitement, for she points out in convincing fashion just how late is the hour, and just how near the end of the war in Europe might be. To those who have followed her since she began crying out the menace of Hitler at the beginning on his black reign, today's column will be gospell, and will be accepted as glad tidings. As we rend it, we sensed anew the significance of these days, and the momentous import of the Red Army's progress toward Berlin.

progress toward Berlin.

We were struck, too, by the thought that there has been nothing written in this vein since the German break-through in Belgium. The public must realize that, from top to bottom, U. S. officialdom has been deliberately soft-pedaling the good new since that counter-attack. Whereas 'President, Prime Minister and Chlefs of Staff were once given to predicting about the war's end, there has not here a whister of late.

Minister and Chiefs of Staff were once given to predicting about the war's end, there has not been a whisper of late, Miss Thompson makes their caution sound like over-caution, and brings us to reflect that we may soon be facing an historic victory without having been prepared for it.

We are not prone to discount the Nazi threat that resistance will go on to the last, and that battles will flare in Germany even after Berlin has fallen.

But, though we have lately been prepared for the extension of the war in Europe, we have not been prepared at all for the possibility Miss Thompson raises—that it may ond at any noment, or within a matter of a few short weeks. And all, the world that matter of a few short weeks. And the world was a supportant themselves, either minister important conditions the support of the property of the ready of a raything. Are we all, civilians and fightling men of the Western world, about to be ambushed by history?

The Great Unwatched

Cecil B. De Mille, a rebellious member

Ceell B. De Mille, a rebellious member of the AFL union, American Federation of Radio Artists, has given up an income of \$260,000 a year over a matter-of principle which involves the cash amount of one dollar. Because he refused to pay the union's dollar assessment levide to help fight the anti-closed shop amendment in California, he has been barred from the alt and the weekly broadcast for which he received \$5,000 is being handled by others.

Here is a struggle worthy of note. The union, holding complete power over its members, controls their right to work. If they do not abide by its rules—down to paying its levied assessments—they cannot hold their jobs. It is this to which Mr. De Mille so strenuously objects. Perhaps the movie megul should not belong to an AFL union anyway, and certainly he does not depend upon his radio show for a livelihood—put those matters are beside the point. This is an affair (and a serious one) between the unions and their members.

those matters are beside the point. This is an affair (and a serious one) between the unions and their members.

The closed shop has become an accepted principle, though there is still hattle done in its name. Unions have assumed control over the right to work in many industries, and their influence is spreading. Whether these unions are well-behaved or not, right or wrong, responsible or irresponsible, there arises the question of whether there should not be some safety valve set upon them. If unions hold this power over the right to work, does it not follow that they should also be limited in the exercise of it? Should not there be some means of protecting the individual worker from arbitrary edicts? Should very union member be subject to any assessment, for instance, whether for political, charitable or any other purposp? Shouldn't the ordinary member, caught in Mr. De Mille's predicament, the lower of the should also be interested to the courts? We think he should be a flow it method or control should be are how it method or control should be an entered and it is a control and it is a cont

We don't know what the method of control should be, or how it might be devised without threatening labor's rights. But there must, be some way, and we'd like to see it tried. id. what the method of

Statesmen At Work

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

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When Sentar Vandaubers of Michigan and Sentar Vandaubers of the page of the Sentar in the green of production of the Sentar in the secrepted by the Sentar in the Sentar and the tempore of the Senate, he accepted as a decision thused entirely unexpected. As matter of fact, I am used to it. This is matter of fact, I am used to it. This service of the serv

The Merry-Go-Round

The Left Hand Knoweth Not What The Right Hand Doeth

BUREAUCRACY

WABHINGTON
VERY little appeared in the papers about it, but, highly important policies regarding future relations with Japan were discussed at the recent institute of Facilit relations at Rot Springs, Va. Most important of Facilit relations at Rot Springs, Va. Most important of Facilit relations at Rot Springs, Va. Most important series in the papers of the Papers of Facility of Facility in the post-war setup of Japan.

Bir Paul Buttler, leading adviser to peal for Hirohito.

Behind closed doors at the swank Romestead Hotel, Buttler made this Romestead Hotel, Buttler made the loss of the History of Papers of

Son of Lord Halifax

Son of Lord Halifax

Lt. Richard. Wood, son of British Ambassador Lord
Ralfax, lore ta Modern Both Africa. German
dive bomber at fleeder am Both Africa.

German
dive bomber at fleeder am of the large of Lieutenant. Wood.
Fortunately the bomb was a dud, but it crushed his
legs, and they were immediately amputated well above
the kree.

legs, and they were minimum, and the knee.

Wood has been in Washington for some weeks, with his father and mother, at the British Embassy. (Incidentally, his brother Peter was killed in action, and the

THIS HEADLONG

RUSH TOWARDS INFLATION

MUST STOP!

0.00

OPA:

third Halifax, ron, Major Charles Wood, heir to the title of Halifax, is a member of Parliament, new severage on active duty with the British Army).

The other dky—an ley day in Washington—roung Wood was being taken to the convaisaons wing of Washington—not fer irrestment, but to talk it convaisaons terram, He has artificial limbs, and has mastered the difficult bushness of washington.

of walking.

But his car got stuck on an icy hill leading to the
hospital. Lieuwenant Wood wanted to get to the hospital cheeping regerence with the American soldiers.

So will with the help of his came. He reached the toppital sind gave his talk to the soldiers.

Veterans' Hospital

Veterons' Hospital

Although the Army boasts of its Walter Red General Hospital in Washington as the finest in the countries of the Countries

Recently the men in Ward 32, most of them in frac-tion splitts which require absolute quiet, drank so much and became so noisy that an MP appeared to restore order and was beaten up by the patients. Several patients were set back several weeks in their recovery as a result of leaving their cots to jump on the MP.

WAR-TIME BOOM

INCOMES MUST BE MAINTAINED IN THE

POST-WAR PERIOD AT ALL COSTY

THE LEFT WING



"Now stop fussing! Can Johnny help it if he has a cold? Here's his snow shovel and here's his list of customers they mustn't be disappointed, so see that you don't miss a single one!"

The End Comes

By Dorothy Thompson

By Dorothy

Thompson

MEW YORK

In this very late hour much a later than anyone would fail from reading the military commentators on the European warfield the model of the population within the present most found-mind and we forest most found the found in th

be establised. There must a carefully prepared program.

It exists, But it is not an Inter-Allied program. It is Soviet.

The Russians know what they want. They have not waited until the war was over to prepare metabolically for it. They have an interest the sound of the control of the cont

best prepared fortifications. And no auch fortifications are in the path of the advancing Soviet.

But the Administration is not not because the state of demonstration in the compilete state of demonstration. The communication system has created to function. The movement and the communication system has created to function. The movement and the state of demonstration of the state of the communication of the state of t

Two mastiff hounds from Old English Town By plane are dispatched over here: Plane aervice impeded, because gasuline is needed. And Elitot at the bottom of this affair:

A top-ranking Colonel, starting a kennel
Right in the midst of the War:
Pay roll of the Nation carrying
the name of a Major,
Who delivers old "Blaze" to their
door.

A chain, we are told, can't pos-ably hold More weight than it's weakest link; Strik time we awake, for our welfares at stake, And get rid of this Roosevelt Stink!

-W. C. NISBET JR.

By Somue. NEW YORK. THE President may have messet the Waltace case a little by not being entirely frank. He said in his letter to Jesse Jones that he was in effect rewarding Waltace for his work during the campaign. This put the impression that the President was trying to put one the impression that the President was trying to put one of the impression of the impressi in the Wellner matter. For a trungs tight, a conceased in the Wellner matter of the trunk of the The Comrades-In-Arms

By Marguis Childs

The Battle Between Americans By Samuel Grafton

NEW YORK self of wanting everything one's own way, and to want fallace case a everything one's own way is kind of unethical in a depart to be

everything one's own way is kind of unethical in a democracy, until objective approach would have been of educational value to all of us. It would have made us face the fact that conservatives and liberalism in America must learn io live together. It sen't Mr. Rooseveit's fault that there is a huge liberal bloc if America, as well as a great conservative bloc. He didn't invent the case of the sent of the sent to be a sent of the sent to look as a till been all balanced that there is a wat liberal bloc, by humming a wordless tune and doing his best to look as if he were only watting for a trolley car in making the Washace roomination, the President specific that the sent is the sent of the sent properties of the sent to look as if he were only watting for a trolley car in making the Washace roomination, the President specific than the does when issues are presented obliquely, instead of frontally.

The whole question of whether conservative and they intend to square off or a finish fight, is conceived in the Wallace matter.

The refection of Wallace, the refusal to admit that

THE longer I stay here the more I become convinced that the wender Is not that same friction exists between the two, peoples—the British and the American—two the two, peoples—the British and the American—two the American Invasion rave been suited discord on, and with It the headquarters functions that at one time coefflowed London's West End. But many American coefflowed London west and the many American Company of the Com

when we would feel the deep conviction that the fee was alming at Britain just as much as at América. Furthermore, our Allies would feel us quite frankly they didn't like our country and were only longing and praying the country and were only longing and praying the country and the praying the country and the praying the country and the country and

with our Alb.

The impression you get fodar is that co-operation textulent at the top between high officials and at the control of the contro

People's Platform So priority could go to a Dog.

Writing you as a manufacturer of essential war materials in the essential war materials in the press to you our appreciation for the valuable assistance you have prought to bear upon the propose to you have brought to bear upon the propose of your proposed to the comployment under the case of the complex of the proposed of the complex of the complex of the proposed of the complex of the comple

-E. S. DILLARD, Old Dominion Box Co. Charlotte.

Ode To

Bluze Editors, The News:

Editors. The News.

Charlotte,

Our Animals

A Mixup In

Our Animals

A Mixup In

Our Animals

A Mixup In

Our Animals

A dept spet the nod through
the gates.

Service men on leave with an

Service men on leave with an Catab three poor devils agog: "American reinder" in