

A Closed Door

If there's one set of facts you can't come by in North Carolina, it's the field of juvenile delinquency. Because juvenile court records are not available to social agencies, especially the Public Welfare Department, no one ever knows the true extent of delinquency. It has been impossible for anyone needed information in this field, because it can be had only by voluntary contribution of the courts themselves. And they don't contribute much.

For another thing, there are no available records of the distribution of money collected. The juvenile courts are thus not an integrated part of the social welfare program in this respect. They go their own way, and other agencies are unable to obtain real information as to the extent of their work, or the impact of their contribution, or the impact of juvenile delinquency upon society.

It was with such simple thoughts in mind that Senator Joe Byrnie, at the behest of the State Public Welfare Department, introduced his bill to make these court records available to the department. There was no thought of violating confidences or making public embarrassing records of behavior. It was more than a means of making vital information available to other social agencies, to the end that our problem in this field might be known (for the first time) and dealt with accordingly.

Thus the argument by Representative Orin B. Benefield, though it struck a popular note, and carried the day, was not actually valid. His protest that the records of these youngsters should not be exposed to the public eye led the House to kill the bill after Senator Byrnie, though it ostensibly protected boys and girls who pass through juvenile courts in North Carolina, in fact barred the courts from receiving the aid of other agencies, sustaining the natural barrier between correlated organizations, and maintained juvenile delinquency in the state as a sort of sociological secret.

Sweet Reunion

Why William Green and his Federation of Labor should want to welcome John Lewis and his United Mine Workers into the fold is something quite beyond us. The story is that John needs to look AFL for the added power and prestige it might lend during his negotiation of a new miners' contract this Spring. But just why AFL needs the kind of prestige given by John's belated return is not clear. It would seem to be poor business to go looking for trouble—and UMW literally promises trouble in advance. Brother Green's great tribe of unions is about to clasp an asp to its bosom.

This, of course, won't be news to Mr. Green. In the past he had feuded long and hard with John Lewis, and some harsh words have passed between them. For some reason he feels a compulsion to snuggle up to UMW in order to present a solid front. He glosses over the past, and discounts the probability that John will soon be challenging AFL for the bidding for power. He overlooks a good many epithets, too. In his time, John has said these things of Bill Green:

"Most AFL leaders mistrust. If they do not despise, Bill Green."  
"It makes no difference whether Green turns his face or back to the CIO, because he looks the same from either direction."  
"I have explored the mind of William Green and I give you my word there is nothing there."  
On this side, Green has not been loath to speak up, but is evidently not so articulate as is John.

He has let the mine boys off with charges of "openly conditioned Communism," and that his real aim is to control the Government.

But these things, we suppose, are just faded memories, and these old enemies

are willing to forget for a while and band together in the common interest. We feel that we can safely predict in advance who will be the loser. From the record, Bill Green hasn't a chance.

Navy Priority

The outburst competition between the services for manpower was never more obvious than it has been for the past week. In the reports of Charlotte's Navy recruiting office. Last week, it sent 96 volunteer 17-year-olds off for enlistment. Tuesday, it shipped off 68 more. It is carrying the hard-working quota of 1000 Germans which the Russians have organized inside Russia, and whose broadcasts to the German people from Russia sponsored by the amazing advance of the Red Army across Poland.

The German committee inside Russia is headed by Field Marshal Friedrich von Paulus, former commander at Stalingrad and by his Deputy, General von Hoth. They actually organized an embryo committee of anti-Nazi Germans, headed by a minister in the old Brüning Cabinet, who also was a strong Catholic leader. (Brüning is now teaching at Harvard.) Most of the German committee were Catholic moderates or leftists, all strong anti-Nazis.

However, a few weeks after the committee was started, the State Department heard about it and suddenly called a halt. OSS officials always suspected the hand of Field Marshal, ex-Ambassador to Germany, in this. Wilson, then a member of the OSS, had leaned toward Rightist German groups when he was Ambassador to Berlin and had little use for groups of the left. His colleagues in the OSS, however, believed that the way to build a counter-political attack against Hitler was with strong Catholic leaders of the left and center.

At any rate, the American move to work inside Germany through the office of strategic services was stopped short in its tracks, while the Russians continued to build up their powerful German committee.

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Also coming up for consideration, and action, are the War Memorial and a new public library.

The development of this city has always been by spurts and surges, generally followed by lapses, rather than by sustained, orderly growth. In the 1920s, for example, the whole appearance of the city changed astonishingly, and likewise its importance. But in the enduring depression which followed and the war which began in 1941, there was an interval of uncertainty and hesitancy. It was only toward the latter part of this period that any considerable building was again undertaken, and which amounted to a good deal in the aggregate, it was scattered.

We believe the statement is warranted that Charlotte is substantially unchanged from the late 1920s, that for the last fifteen years it has mainly proceeded along. It is altogether to be expected that the city should be in need of rearmament and residential expansion and the improvement of both private and public facilities is surging anew. It was entirely predictable.

Along with it is what we believe to be the outcropping of a new belief from which will come a new policy—that our most opportune time for making this a better place in which to live.

Our other enemy in the great war is overconfidence, that condition of breaking and shattering encouragement into colored lights and jubilant sounds, like a kite box.

The Merry-Go-Round

By Drew Pearson

WASHINGTON—The inside story of how certain U. S. agencies were blown in their effort to build up an anti-Nazi committee of Germans to help defeat the Nazis can now be told. It is especially significant in view of the committee of 1000 Germans which the Russians have organized inside Russia, and whose broadcasts to the German people from Russia sponsored by the amazing advance of the Red Army across Poland.

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CONGRESSMAN EXPLODES

Representative Dewey Short of Missouri gave the brains some of the plained talk heard on the floor of Congress for a long time. He accused them of trying to cover up their mistakes by demanding passage of the work-or-fight bill.

"Generals and Admirals should stay in their place," stormed the leading Republican Congressman from Missouri. "They have an applied science to prosecute this war. They are the military strategists. A lot of these parlor generals and pink-tea strategists you see in Washington come up to your office and try to tell you how to win this war. What right have they the military to tell business, labor and industry men who are qualified by life-long experience what to do. Industry and labor are both opposed to this bill." (Short referred to the work-or-fight bill.)

"What is it for?" continued the gentleman from Missouri, "to cover up mistakes and miscalculations? Bickering and bungling on the home front? The only trouble between a civilian and a general is that the general is never wrong. Was it ever wrong? I served and you served in it. Was it ever wrong? Never. They are infallible, impeccable as Christ-like on this earth. We will not say where they will go afterward."

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COAST TO COAST

By Dorothy Thompson

It would like for purpose of clarity, to recapitulate certain aspects of the German question which are being discussed by the Big Three, whenever they may be together.

Two years ago—on the day after the announcement of the unconditional surrender of Germany—the United States, Great Britain, and the U. S. S. R. and the United States on principles and objectives of the reconstruction of Europe and Germany. For unless there are common principles, program and objectives, the program will be unworkable chaos. And all that certain dissenior between Allies.

Since then we have regularly—and perhaps anonymously—asked of the participants of the Big Three: What is the reason for it? What interests will it serve? What new problems is it likely to create? Are we prepared to meet those problems? And, above all, are all three Allies agreed on the implementation of the program?

It is a very simple I called attention to the work of my distinguished policy in dealing with German prisoners of war. I pointed out that the present procedures for applying self-education in prison camps led, inevitably, to the formation of a new sub-command structure, which was being formed under the leadership of the Big Three.

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Recapitulation

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