

The Merry-Go-Round

By Drew Pearson

President Roosevelt got back from his notable achievements at Yalta to find serious problems awaiting him at home, particularly on the labor front.

The President left for Yalta almost immediately after his inauguration. And, up until a day or two before his inauguration, he had not made up his mind what to do about appointing a new Secretary of Labor.

Meanwhile various moves could have been made to head off the coal crisis. One of them, discussed in the background but never brought forward, is an annual wage for miners.

Another move, proposed backstage, was to appoint coal mine representatives on local OPA boards to make sure the cost of living did not go up, or if so, under circumstances they understood.

But the most important move was to have appointed a new Secretary of Labor, with a new, fresh outlook, undiminished prestige, who could have tackled the job first-hand, and, if necessary, gone out to the mining areas to meet with the miners themselves.

Peace-Loving Ickes

The Senate Judiciary Committee, passing on the qualifications of Judge Nathan Margold for the Federal bench, was moving quietly along with its old chief, Secretary Ickes, on the stand.

But suddenly Senator McCarran of Nevada snapped to attention. "What did you say, Mr. Secretary?" he asked.

Ickes smiled innocently, then reread from his prepared statement: "As everyone knows, I am a very

amiable and peace-loving man. I don't like fights, legal or otherwise." Started McCarran replied, "Is that a statement of fact, Mr. Secretary?"

"Of course, it is," replied the tempestuous Mr. Ickes in his best butter-wouldn't-melt-in-his-mouth manner. "It's a fact, and that's why I'm putting it in the record."

McCarran smiled, advised Ickes to proceed.

Churchill-Sforza Feud

It has now been some time since Winston Churchill put his foot down with a resounding thud against Count Sforza's becoming Premier or Foreign Minister of Italy.

When the Allies first landed in Italy, the British had practically no intelligence inside the country. Therefore, they depended upon the SIM (Secret Italian Military Intelligence) and its commanding officer, General Roatta.

Count Sforza came into the picture when, as head of the Italian war crimes commission, he brought charges against both Generals Roatta and Geborno. As is customary in Italy, he called them for a pre-trial examination.

This leak infuriated Churchill. The British Secret Service is one of his personal pets. To have it exposed to the public would be a disaster.

Die Lorelei



The War Is Long Yet

By Marquis Childs

NO ONE with knowledge and responsibility expects an early end of the war in Europe. Prophets in the past, both military and civilian, have been very, very wrong.

The planning is all for hard fighting ahead and the possibility of casualties that may exceed even those in the battle of the Ardennes bulge.

At least 500 officers and men in our Army have spoken to me about this story. They wanted to know what it meant and how anybody, even someone so far from the scene and with so little first-hand knowledge, could be so wrong.

What Of Price Control?

By Samuel Grafton

NO new houses will spring up out of the earth on Unconditional Surrender Day. We are going to be something like 1,200,000 dwelling units short of normal conditions by the time the smoking stops and the shanties will continue for into the peace.

On that day we can safely end price control. Here is a full test of our community wisdom. If there were no politics in the situation, that is the course we would follow. We cannot go back to the life of supply and demand until supply and demand stand in some sensible relation to each other.



"Mom is proud of her hands, so you say, 'What beautiful soft hands you've got!' then the pantry will be ours!"

People's Platform

Editorial, The News: A fortune teller's compulsion has been followed with reference to teachers' salaries. Educators and teachers would now seek to counterbalance by improved methods the nationwide defeat of the public school system.

The Back Yard War Is Over

Editorial, The News: This is my conception of signs of Spring. You may or may not be able to use it. It's only thoughts.

1. The schools are superficial, not thorough, and give pupils only a smattering of information. 2. High school graduates fail in business positions. They cannot sell, and know scarcely anything about American—or any other—history.

3. Retardation of pupils is expected in any State. The State insistence that repeaters be limited to 10 per cent is one of the chief causes of lack of thoroughness. The welfare of the child, rather than the retardation, should be the paramount consideration.

4. There is in vogue a dual standard of graduation from high school for pupils expecting to go to college and those who will not enter. This lowers educational standards and cheapens diplomas and contributes to superficiality.

5. Since parents pass the buck to the schools in the matter of discipline, it is up to the schools to do a better job in maintaining order and discipline. If they pass the buck to the parents, the parents' heads will be developed.

6. The State needs a more effective law and ten days sick leave. They have no right to petition for their jobs annually.

7. Teachers need a decent tenure law, and need to be paid for their jobs annually.

8. Last, not least, we need to have the Bible taught in our schools.

DR. CREWS A. DERR, Rockingham, N. C.

The Charter Yet Lives

Editorial, The News: Who said the Atlantic Charter was dead? It really has never been dead. This true it is in the grand scheme of things, and waxing fat, it is a brain child of our great President.

The Russian advances in the East have been one of the most amazing phenomena of the war. They have cut off Germany's chief sources of industrial supply.

But no one here familiar with the whole picture believes that Berlin will fall without a protracted siege and a block-by-block fight for the city. The Germans will defend their capital as the Russians defended Stalingrad, and the siege may conceivably last for weeks.

Take Budapest as an example of the German capacity to defend a city. This was of far less importance than Berlin, and yet German troops defended it block by block in a siege that lasted many weeks.

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There are six more Republican Senators who are under 40—Fulbright, McNamara, Mansfield, Mitchell of Washington, Four others are under 40—Taylor of North Carolina, Auer of Kansas, Mitchell of Oregon, Myers of Pennsylvania.

After all, this is the third time the Germans have invaded this. It isn't all Hitler. The German people must take some responsibility for their leaders. —Dean Virginia C. Childers of Harvard College, San Francisco Conference, February 20, 1945.

Action Now

In the four years since Tom Jimison's shocking revelations of life in the State Hospital at Morganton have been known to the people of North Carolina we have made steady progress in bettering the lot of the men and women who end their days behind the crab barred walls. But that progress has not been enough.

That was enough to draw lines for battle in the General Assembly. Governor Terry was determined that the Budget Director Dwyer, it is a direct attempt to bring Morganton into line. It does, as we've explained before, set up an entire new scheme of things on all the hospital boards. It provides for selection of board members from Congressional districts, eliminates the present executive committees of the individual institutions. It gives business management greater control; specifically, it gives it control over its own funds, and makes it answerable only to the Board of Control.

But the joint committee which has been considering three hospital bills has been dallying around for weeks with the O'Berry Bill. It finds some outspoken opposition to it. Much of this opposition comes from Morganton, where the position forces the end of their control if it passes. Bill members from Congressional districts, eliminates the present executive committees of the individual institutions. It gives business management greater control; specifically, it gives it control over its own funds, and makes it answerable only to the Board of Control.

At the moment friends of the hospitals are working hard for a compromise that will be accepted. There is no question but that the broad purpose of the O'Berry Bill should be accomplished. There should be an end to this backing and filling on the part of the joint committee. Already there are three bills which would be turned out, if it didn't quickly produce some kind of acceptable legislation. The fear is now that this committee, which may be all too prone to listen to the voice of Morganton, may amend or drop approving bills—and that must not come to pass.

Double Standard

In the course of his report on Yalta last week President Roosevelt came down to the plan for peace. He knew some Americans frowned upon planning (Republicans generally regard it as a radical departure), but he hoped to see this report, first in the San Francisco, and he promised that they would be good. He warned that they need not stand forever, and be perfect from the start. He suggested that they might be often amended, through the years, just as we have often amended our Constitution.

And that put us to pondering the American attitude toward constitution in general. We discovered a curious thing: Americans are loath to touch their Federal Constitution, but they revel in kicking things around in their 46 state constitutions. We can suggest why this might be, but in the 156 years of the Constitution's life there has never been a demand for general revision, to lift its face and keep it up with the times. And, despite the President, it has been amended seldom.

Discounting the first ten amendments, which were really part of the Constitution, the document has been amended only nine times—in much as the twenty-first amendment only repealed the unfortunate eighteenth. But in the states, where free men are free men and like to swell their chests to prove it, book laws have been done to revise constitutions 101 state con-

ventions have been held, and 131 of them have successfully promoted complete revisions. In 29 other cases the new provisions were adopted in Louisiana has had nine different constitutions. Georgia eight, South Carolina six. In some states amendments have entirely changed the constitutions. Massachusetts, for example, still has the constitution of 1780 in effect—but it has had 12 amendments.

In 1943 a tabulation showed that 2,495 amendments had been added to constitutions then in force—an average of 52 per constitution. We don't know what all this proves, except that Americans often feel the need for change. In that case home ballistics are willing to take the chance. But when it comes to walking new paths in Washington, with the whole shooting match at stake, they fear even to take the chances of amendment and revision that the Founding Fathers expected of them.

In All Directions

The need for an open-minded, sensible study of North Carolina's liquor legislation was emphasized by developments in Raleigh last week. First, the one dry prohibition referendum was ditched, virtually without arousing any attention among the dry operators, who realized along with everybody else that they were going about it in the wrong way and at the wrong time.

Then there began to be talk that the beer people, represented by a capable and conscientious association, wanted to be divorced legislatively from the wine people, who have no association and, to judge by their output and some of their outlets, no conscience either. On top of that the Revenue Bill in the House, passed on its second reading, was set back to first reading by the adoption of a material amendment increasing the tax on beer from \$1.00 a gallon. And somewhere along the line a bill had been introduced to allocate \$20,000 for experiments in grape culture.

All of this adds up to a bedfellowhood so complete that it suggests applying the parliamentary rule—setting all legislation on alcoholic beverages back to first reading and starting all over again. But before that it would be well to conduct a commission to determine what's what in the drinking line in North Carolina.

Facts would be exceedingly useful, and a more reliable guide for legislation than dogma. For example, are the 75 dry counties anywhere near dry? Is the sale of liquor in the 26 wet counties anywhere near wet for contrary? Could farmers (such as we here, sherry and champagne) safely be legalized again if sold under restrictions of quality and price, the lack of which previously led (and wisely) to the extinction of those needed fruit juices which were retained at a few cents a quart? Could farmers be made to produce in any good purpose they may serve?

Liquor legislation in North Carolina has suffered at the hands of the irresponsibles. The dries have wanted to repeal the discoveries of fermentation and distillation, the wets to repeal the dries. Nowhere has common ground been sought, and we do not know that it exists. But of this we are positive: that alcohol will be with us always, legitimately or illegitimately, and that the proper regulation of it requires constant study.

Hitler overlooked the wisdom of one war at a time. Now, a Congressman urges us to demand that servicemen overseas to be near their men.

Lawyers who have looked at the Yalta decision say the Nazi couldn't get back into the human race if he paid up back dues.

Distillation is looking over your bread to see which side it is buttered.

Statesmen At Work

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

Today our boys are dying by the thousands on Iwo Jima. Probably some Japs who pretended they had been converted from Shintoin were able to slip information to the Japs on that island in Tokyo, as was done just before Pearl Harbor, to have our boys to more efficiently slaughter our men.

Mr. SHORT. I am absolutely convinced, I will say to the gentleman.

Mr. RANKIN. And now, as I said, our Marines are dying by the thousands as a result. How do you sit there and let them die, and you are going to let them continue to die without success, to produce nothing, to give nothing to our countrymen and place them in job positions. I say it to you for the American people to rise up and demand that Congress do what we know to be our duty.

Mr. SHORT. I am very happy, Mr. Speaker, to have my position clarified. The one whose name the gentleman from Missouri tried without success, to produce nothing, to give nothing to our countrymen and place them in job positions. I say it to you for the American people to rise up and demand that Congress do what we know to be our duty.

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Quote, Unquote

AFTER all, this is the third time the Germans have invaded this. It isn't all Hitler. The German people must take some responsibility for their leaders. —Dean Virginia C. Childers of Harvard College, San Francisco Conference, February 20, 1945.

Expansion of foreign trade is the one essential to carrying on a decent peace. I hope the Axis won't be allowed to operate the merchant shipping for an indefinite period, the longer the better. —Vice Admiral Lord Louis Mountbatten, War Shipping Administration.

We must win the two battle r-