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The Time To Start

Any charitable, no matter how strong his conviction, will concede that the place is infested with slums. Most people will go further and agree that something ought to be done about these slums, both to correct existing conditions and to outlaw them for the future. But on the all-important question of how and by what method a difference of opinion may develop.

There has been a good deal of dereliction on the part of the community's conscience, public and private, in the past. This has allowed houses which lacked the essential decencies for habitation to be built cave-to-cave with replicas on both sides, and sometimes front and back too, and built on creek banks, and over creeks, and on impassable alleys.

Housing, it needs to be understood, is not the only deficiency. The Charlotte Real Estate Board has perceived as much. Housing is basic, and the Real Estate Board has included in their recommendations a "standard house" containing lights and bathing facilities, with ample living space and ample clearance between houses as they are built. But beyond that, the Real Estate Board has indicated the need for maintenance of the streets (and the building of sidewalks, we should hope) where these houses are situated.

And parks and playgrounds in these neighborhoods, and they are a crying necessity.

And social service work by the City Government which may be a new notion in urban circles but is no more radical than the farm and home services long supplied by the County Government to people outside the city.

Yet all of these, as much improvement as they will work, are not enough. Take the messy matter of garbage disposal. The City says: Put the stuff out in covered garbage cans and we will collect it. Slum dwellers don't possess garbage cans. They pile the stuff up, and it accumulates and scatters. The trucks come along, maybe not too regularly, and the drivers decline to get out and shovel the stuff up. It would take all day to cover a block.

Something, in the simplest interest of public health, will have to be done about garbage disposal in the slums.

Take daylight for something will have to be done about letting daylight into the slums. It is one thing to make laws that new houses must be built with so much air and ground space around them, but what about the thousands of old houses that stand in cellular arrangements? Are they to be preserved indefinitely?

And take the people, the people who make and are made by the slums. They respond to opportunity and they respond to the slum. They are the product of the slum. They are the product of the slum. They are the product of the slum.

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The Merry-Go-Round

By Drew Pearson.

MEMBERS of Congress returning to work today are simply swamped with GI mail. It has been piled up in particular for returned veterans in the U.S.A. who have been kept marking time, waiting for the brass to let them go home.

The storm of protest is terrific. So much so that the 1946 Congressional elections, in fact the re-election of President Truman, may be won as late as the next few weeks—all hinging on one thing.

For instance, Gov. Dewey right in his charge that the Democrats wanted to keep men in the Army and Navy who were not wanted by them.

Politically the problems is TNT. Meanwhile, many Congressmen have become convinced that Army brass hasn't been playing fair with regard to discharge figures. And junior officers who do the stultified work will tell you privately that this is true. Army chiefs have been giving figures to Congress which are completely off-base.

For instance, last June the Army told Congress that there were only 180,000 men aged 38 and 39 in the Army. This low figure was given to quiet the Congressional demand that men of this age be released. The Army claimed that Congress was being stampeded by a lobby of only a small number of men.

But, on August 1, the Army turned round and announced that there were 300,000 men aged 38 and 39. Congressmen point out that 180,000 doesn't equal 300,000 in any arithmetic book. And the number couldn't have increased between June and August, because men over 39 were not being drafted.

Marshall Scolds Congress. Example No. 2—After the German war ended, the Army announced its 80-point system and the plan to discharge 3,380,000 men under it. But soon they have turned round and admitted to Congress that there are less than 500,000 men with 85 points in all war theaters, including the U.S.A.

Again Congressmen point out that 1,388,000 doesn't equal 500,000, and they suspect that the Army gave the higher figure last May with no real intention of living up to it.

Certainly the Army made an effort to reduce the 80-point score between V-E Day and V-J Day, despite its promise to do so. That promise was announced officially and publicly, but apparently it was never meant. Progress has been made here and there, but the conference in which he stated most emphatically that the point score would remain 'as is' and there would be no lowering of it.

Marshall's press conference was held just after the atomic bomb was dropped on Japan, after peace feelers already had been received from Japan, and one day before Russia came into the war—Marshall knowing in advance that she was coming in. Yet the Chief of Staff spent at least half his press conference telling the Army must keep 7,000,000 men and demobilizing Congress for wanting to have less.

A Suggestion. Suggestion to the War Department: Why not arrange a system of furloughs for men marking time in U.S. camps, so they can go home, two for one, on Aug. 7. Chief of Staff Gen. Marshall tells the press conference that the discharge centers are now swamped with the job of mustering men out?

At present veterans with battle ribbons actually are being asked to kick up their heels to keep them busy until the discharge machinery is speeded up. Let them go home to their families! Picking up waste paper and closing down GI hotels, and blowing GI blood to boiling point, and the lid may blow off at the next elections or sooner.

The President's Daughter. The President's daughter, Miss Margaret Truman, continues to dig her grave with the press. Her latest move was to find the Chamber of Commerce of her own home town, Independence.

A few days ago, a photographer from the National Geographic Magazine and a writer assigned from the Missouri Resources Commission, of Jefferson City, stopped in Independence to gather material and illustrations for a feature in the magazine. The Chamber of Commerce in behalf of the two through the Wallace families, the President's in-laws, to obtain the help of Margaret Truman was refused, she did not care to pose.

So the Chamber of Commerce enlisted three young women to be communicants leading from the Delaware Street entrance of the Truman home. The young ladies were Miss Virginia Gard, daughter of Dr. and Mrs. R. P. Gard of Independence; Miss Jeanan Haden, secretary to the Chamber of Commerce; and Mrs. Lora Weatherford Ellis, a Post Office employee. The Secret Service had no objection to this picture and it gave life and color to scenes of Independence.

But suddenly, two days later, the Chamber of Commerce received telephone call from Carl M. Dickson, head of the Kansas City Secret Service. He wanted to know where he could locate the National Geographic photographer, Margaret Truman, he said, had decided she didn't want those pictures published in the National Geographic Magazine, even if she was not in them. She didn't even want those Independence girls photographed near her home.

The Chamber of Commerce was incensed. Especially because on that very same day, Miss Truman posed with the back yard of the Truman home with her aunt, Mrs. George Wallace, for photographers of Fox Movie-News. Her friends now wonder if she isn't attempting to crash the movies.

Mrs. Pauley Travels. There are several thousand GIs in Europe now living near them in France or Germany—but they can't get home. Mrs. Pauley was not enough, Mrs. Pauley was listed as an official member of the mission, with an allowance of \$25 a day while overseas.

Members of the mission testify that Mrs. Pauley was extremely pleasant, but acting pleasant was all she did. She was the Russian girl who virtually everything members of the mission needed. They provided housing, food, and servants without charge.

At the end of \$25 a day, Mrs. Pauley should have needed a cool \$2,000 from the Government during her pleasant trip to Moscow.

We Kept the Faith, Buddy! If one critic of such things, attributed to German agents, I have never seen a German in the United States, and I am sure that I am not alone in this. I am sure that I am not alone in this. I am sure that I am not alone in this.

It was opposition to the latter that the Allies can reduce Germany against what they practice themselves.

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SIDE GLANCES

By Galbreith



Everything happens to me, mother—hay fever season, and so many service men coming home.

Of Potsdam (I)

By Dorothy Thompson

MANY things—the most important—are left open in the Potsdam agreement, such as the German-Polish frontiers, and the matter of exchanging populations. In fact, the Potsdam Conference was taking over the area east of the Oder and Neisse, and settling rid of the German population.

The German population of these territories was in 1925, around 12,000,000; the highest Allied estimate of the numbers who have fled into the British and American zones is 4,000,000. This is probably exaggerated. But even this leaves perhaps 8,000,000 unaccounted for. If this area is depopulated and resettled, the Potsdam Conference, how will the Conference be able to change matters?

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A Little Feudin' Not Again

Randolph County, being stuck plumb in the geographical center of North Carolina, anything, as the saying goes, can happen there. For example, the Republican species is by no means extinct in the county, and comes out now and again with a gubernatorial candidate.

Randolph, by and large, is North Carolina to the last degree. Perhaps there is a time lag of a few years, explained by its large rural area. But in the main, the politics, the village social conditions, the attitude and behavior of Randolph is that of North Carolina. And all this is solidly built, its businesses and foundations laid by the state's first mill-owners.

The county's latest bout of activity came in the field of a schoolboy feud between Asheboro and Randleman—and it turned out to be a pretty vicious one. For a day or two, the boys of Asheboro and Randleman—well, among themselves as well as most suppose. (Else how does Mecklenburg explain the recent shenanigans between Myers Park and Matthews boys?) But last month things came to a head between the youngsters of the village of Randleman and the small town of Asheboro.

On the night of the fifteenth 58 Randolph boys engaged in a free-for-all street fight in Randleman, and some of them were only fourteen. These received 30-day sentences, suspended, and warned to sin no more. Five nights later five Randleman boys assailed a couple of Asheboro boys with knives and broken bottles, inflicting such wounds and costing one youngster an eye. These five were held for Superior Court, each under a \$1,000 bond.

It is obvious that the school boy feud is out of hand, and has become something else. What only the young Deep River separating them, the young men of such diverse social and geographical outlooks can't seem to get along, and there is no answer for their natural enmity but knives, bottles, and fists. That's how we get along, in a typical North Carolina community, when there are no barriers of language, tariff and understanding between us.

Statesmen At Work

REP. HARE (R-C) prescribes the House a special session on the Anti-Poll Tax Bill. This year's special session brought on a war among ourselves a number of years ago. I don't believe we will ever have a special session, but when the Statesmen At Work continue to appropriate the powers and functions of the States, I wish for a day when the Statesmen At Work in their right mind might strike this great Government of our both "big and small" by putting a few clarifying amendments in the Constitution that will make it in them a way-faring man and not a mere Statesman.

What sitting idly by and letting state government be usurped by the Federal Government to assume the powers and functions of the States, how their powers to the Federal Government, they can set up an all-inclusive State, they can do it to increase their rights and powers. This kind of legislation and other similar legislation

A Suggestion

Suggestion to the War Department: Why not arrange a system of furloughs for men marking time in U.S. camps, so they can go home, two for one, on Aug. 7. Chief of Staff Gen. Marshall tells the press conference that the discharge centers are now swamped with the job of mustering men out?

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Great But Shy

By Samuel Grafton

WE have come out of the war, by common consent, a great deal poorer than we were. We are somewhat embarrassed by our debts, and it is hard to hold the head high. It is not that we are an awkward organization, and it is hard to hold the head high. It is not that we are an awkward organization, and it is hard to hold the head high.

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Prosperous And Lonely

By Marquis Childs

State Byrnes a broad picture of France today, which is also Europe. With several million homes destroyed, millions of families are homeless. In Boulogne there were 20,000 homeless, 5,000 are habitable.

In the exhibits prepared by the GI's staff were two maps. One showed the degree of destruction in France on Nov. 11, 1918, the line of the destruction on V-E Day this year. The contrast could not have been more striking. The 1918 map shows almost white, with only the Channel areas damaged. The 1945 map shows scarcely a province that has not been hit 50 per cent or more.

But, what can we do about it? We can't rebuild Europe. There isn't that much wealth in America.

We've all heard that. And sometimes we're tempted to believe it. I have seen the devastation that swept across Western Europe.

Perhaps the most that Dr. Grafton hopes for is to work out the outline of a program for the future, which includes collaboration with the United States. It would not be necessary to end all relations with France.

But for millions of Frenchmen, it would be the beginning of a new life. It would be an answer to the radicals who in western Europe are left and right who see the answer but Communism or some new form of Fascism.

With the end of fighting, President Truman had no choice but to

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