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Publisher Editor Associate Editor

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Epitaph For 1945

was at floodtide during 1945. Bisory was at floodtide during 1945, and the annual summing-up appropriate to this day is a difficult task. Bditors, essuing their bailots for the headlines of the year, find themselves divided—live days of victory, the death of a Prasident who will certainly task his place among those who changed the course of our national life, the unleashsource of our national life, the unleasing of atomic energy — any one of those stories would mark 1945 in red for the historians.

It was, in its way, an exciting time. It was the end of one strained era of danger and death and the beginning of an era of uncertain peace.

The early months were, of course, the amplest. The choices of war are always chrolos, sacrifice is accepted, compromise is unthinkable. We were, until V-J Day, a people with a purpose, dedicated to a task so important it left no room for debate. We were, after the first explaint on of victory had passed, an echausted and confused people who wanted mothing except to be left alone, irritable in the face of decisions thrust unean us, reluctant to accept the knowlupon us, reluctant to accept the knowledge that the problems of peace can be even, more complex than the problems of war.

And now we have come to another New Year's Day, one that has been heralded a great turning point, signifi-cant as no other January First has ever been. After today scarce goods are supposed to blossom miraculously on the empty shelves, problems of production and distribution are scheduled to vanish as if my magic.

Of course, it isn't going to be that way at all, and the bitterness of the last months of 1945 will inevitably spill over into '46. The removal of a tax, the dropping of a control or two, will not cure the deep-rooted maladjustments of our unbalanced economy. Nothing will, we suspect, but time.

But, after all, 1946 offers just that, But, after all, 1946 offers Just that. A new calendar is the most hopeful and optimistic object we know, bearing the promise of 365 unused days to replace those previously wasted. If we employ them wisely we should be well on our way to peace and prosperity when the last leaf flutters down a year from now. Certainly there is every reason to be. Certainly there is every reason to be-lieve that the tender little New Year we celebrate today will not earn the epitaph so fitting for 1945: "Thank God it's over."

Off The Hook

The Democrats have wriggled neatly off the hook upon which they were impaled by the unexpected death of Representative Joe Ervin. The nomination of his brother, Judge Ervin, with the understanding that he will not stand for re-election, provides the Tenth District with adequate representation, mollifies the several Democrats who were anxious for a try at the seat, removes the suspicion that six District Committeemen were seeking to avoid a vote of the people, and dashes Republican hopes for sneaking one of their own into of-fice because of a split Democratic vote.

It seems unlikely now that Judge Ervin It seems unlikely now may stuge as an will have any Democratic opposition, and it is possible that the Republicans will decide not to bring a candidate forward in the special election. He was, ward in the special election. He was, in effect, named Congressman yesterday by six Democratic politicians, and, whatever the practical benefits to be derived, the manner of his nomination still strikes as as dubious, although it is doubtless perfectly legal.

The whole affair points up the need The whole affair points up the need for a revision of North Carolina's elec-tion laws. There is no reason to believe that Congressmen are immortal, that vacancies created by death will not occur as frequently in the future as they have in the past. It is inexcusable that each such occurrence leads to a public debate on the manner of filling the office, with legal opinions being handed down by the dozen, and the final decision being left largely up to the chance whim of the Democratic Party.

Under the circumstances, it is prob-Under the circumstances, it is probable that Judge Erwins service will be more valuable to the district than would that of a duly elected Representative. He will not be constrained to divide his time between the affairs of state in Washington and the affairs of politics at home, as would a Representative who faced a Democratic primary a few months from now. And his record in public life indicates that he will do well by his inherited constituent. by his inherited constituency.

But, as we originally suggested, a pri-But, as we originally suggested, a pri-mary would have been the proper solu-tion to the problem. Judge Ervin, what-ever his qualifications, cannot be a true Representative, for he is not the choice of the voters of this district, but of six individuals who selected him because of the accident of his birth.

At any rate, the affair should furnish ample ammunition for those who are certain to draft an election law covering Congressional vacancies at the next session of the Legislature.

Feet Of Clay

Emperor Hirohito's public announcement that his feet are, after all, made meent that his feet are, after an, mane of common clay, is quite a triumph for General MacArthur. The Mikado not only confessed his mortality, he spoke publicly of "the false conception that the Japanese people are superior to other races and are fated to rule the world," which, of course, is the point the doughty Doug has been trying to make ever since he started his historic return to Bataan.

Coming from a man who only a fev coming from a man who only a Tew menths ago was considered too holy to be subjected to the gaze of the common people, the humble rescript stands as testimony to the complete success of the American, occupation, insofar as it has been directed toward rooting out mili-terium. The Emperor was the symbol. been directed toward rooting out milli-darism. The Emperor was the symbol. unwitting or not, behind which the Japanese fascists erected their extra-erdinary government, and clearly he does not intend to be so used again.

We don't know whether the timing was intentional or not, but the rescript was served up at a moment when it stands in impressive support of General MacArthur's personal objections to the

sharing of occupational authority with

The General was hurt because he wasn't consulted in the matter of permitting the Russians a limited voice in Japanese affairs, but actually there was little reason for asking him how he felt about it. In a series of public statements, unlike any issued by a soldier on active duty since General McClellan squared off with Abraham Lincoln, the General has made it clear that he won't tolerate interference from anybody, Rus-sian or otherwise.

He has, however, consented to obey the orders of his commander-in-chief for a while at least, until he can see how things are going. But he'll walk out, he has indicated, at the drop of an adverse decision.

It's an imperial attitude, replacing the It's an imperial attitude, replacing the one abandoned by the Emperor. but it seems to be justified by the really excellent record of the American occupation. Perhaps it stands as further evidence that General MacArthur is, as the Washington Doily News once remarked, the only American who is as good as he thinks he is.

From The St. Paul Dispatch-Pioneer Press:

On Congressional Salaries

Ever since 1873, when Congress raised its pay from \$5,000 to \$7,500 a year and made the increase retroactive for two years, our legislative representatives at Washington have been very timid about such matters.

The present salary of \$10,000 a year was adopted in 1925. The cost of living their was within 3 or 4 per cent of what it is today, so there is no good argument on that score for an increase. However, while Congressional salaries have been standing still, pay standards save open standing still, pay standards generally have been going up very materially. Thus in September of this year the average hourly wage in all manufacturing industries was 76 percent higher than in 1925; in soft coal milning it, was 60 per cent higher.

Actually, if the time spent on public rees are getting less now than in 1925.

Back in the 1920's Congress was only in session an average of five or six menths out of each year. Now Congress is in almost continuous session.

Consequently members of Congress ust spend most of their time in Washn. Most members maintain homes in their constituencies as well as

in Washington: whereas before most members left their families at home and lived in a hotel room during sessions. And the need to be in Washington so much of the time hasymade it impos-sible for most members to continue to run their law practices or businesses back home, as in the past.

When all demands and expenses are considered, the salaries of members of Congress are inadequate. Unless a mem-ber has private means, he has a diffi-ult time making both ends meet. It is very well for a member like Senator is very well for a member like Senator Langer to shout that if a Senator does not like it, he can resign: but it is not in the public interest, that only men with private fortunes or outside sources of revenue go to Congress. The Senate once was called a "millionaires' club", and it will be that again if the pay is kept at a point where a poor man cannot afford to set elected.

In his opening statement a British prosecutor at Nuernberg brands the Nazis "murderers" and "bandits." Were it not for the characterists reserve of the British, more might be said.

Verbal Salute To The Year's **Unsung Heroes**

WASHINGTON

WASHINGTON
With the beginning of 1984, the
The Washington Merry-GeRound takes pleasure in saluting
those who have
fellow men during the turbulent
year just closed.
G. I. JOE—
the hero without
headlines, who no
matter what his
front line attack
or wiping ensines below decks
went in and did
sort of punishment, from tropleal
mosquitoes to snipers' bullets, who
did all these things for his country
uncomplainingly—
but who now

and all three things for his country mecomplainingly — but who now wants to come home.

MRS. G. I. JOB—the heroine without headlines who moved here without headlines who moved here had been been assumed to the historian headlines who make a headlines who moved here husbands morate at the drought had been deep the husbands morate at the drought had been deep the husbands morate at the drought had been drought ha

tery.

J. EDGAR HOOVER-who, with his FBI, has suppressed enemies from within, kept foreign sabolage at the zero level, and done it without disturbing the civil liberties of the nation.

SENATOR BARKLEY-who despite a very ill wife has kept a steady hand on the Senate throttie, unflinchingly pushing through the programme of the control of the control of the programme of the control of the contro

integral hand on the Senate throise, unline-integral properties unline-integral properties against termendous oppositions against termendous oppositions against termendous oppositions as center of humor. SPEAKER SAM RAYBURN who has been able to crack the gridneration of politicians ever asthered under one roof and by his charm, his sagacity, and his driving energy has largely made the properties of the same properties. The properties of australia, who has worked hand in glove with the USA and who can be said the same properties of the same properties. The same properties are said to the same properties of the same properties of the same properties.

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for their country and man-

UNDER THE DOME

UNDER THE DOME

Busy Tom Gorcotan, the expanding the properties of the control of

National Committeeman from New York.

Ed Flynn, always more interested in the coveted field of the covered field fiel

CAPITAL CHAFF

section of Wichita, Kansas,

Six General Motors executives

are six to the Treasury De
are six to the center of Oklahoma. To get a new station, he figured he needed New Dealer Kerr's support. Kerr plans to run saginast GOP Sentor plans to run saginast GOP sentor replace to the station of the plans to run saginast GOP sentor replace to the plans to run saginast GOP sentor replace to the plans to run saginast GOP sentor replace to the plans to run saginast GOP sentor run saginastic run saginasti

"Sorry I Couldn't Clean Everything Up, Bub"



Byrnes Inherits Chamberlain's Umbrella?

IN A DEMOCRACY such as ours,
where the failures or achievements of dicitals have an effect on
tudes of the voters, bad news is
bad politics. For
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from Moscow, as
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the State De-artment would nen have had to come forth with dynamic program on such ques-ons as the revision of UNO to seet the requirements of the atomic see the future organization of Eu-spe, and security for small na-ons, asking for the people's conti-

lons, asking redence and support of an aobjective, or Mr. Byrnes would have
been an own better of the support
of the comes back, bowever, as the
headings tell us "highly cirted"
that the "Big Three Re-establish
Unity in Wird Accord." So it is
sood news, and cood politics. But
according to the support of the support
of the support of the support

A SOVIET VICTORY

UNDEFINED QUESTION

: the Middle East and the and fleet disintegrate. Out of fair disintegrate. No affairs disintegrate. No worfully represent a combailan directly connects Turi

Roof with inappened to him. This tender the Big Three recommendaries are the special properties of the discretions regarding elections. Nothing happened. It is not words but deads which count—and the memory of deeds not done. No minor counting the discretion of the special properties of the special prop

Titory.

The question of what is aggression is still undefined, but it becomes increasingly clear that aggression is any protest of a small state against a great power.

The People's Platform

The Right To Strike

rions. Then the United States and Mas removed and just did not heal Britain will "recognize" the Governments.

There is no guarantee that the model of the standard properties of additional remesentatives will even be kept in the Governments. Marshall Tito, under similar directives, which was all since the colon in Mr. Subsaction and we all sign in case," if you could have

Quote, Unquote

ONE of the biggest diplomatic errors ever committed was when the United States recognized Argentina and then urg ed the Latin American republics to vote for its admission to the United Nations Conference at San Fran-

isco.

Gabriel Gonzalez Videla, mem-ber of the Senate of Chile.

I think the coming of the atomic bomb will stop great wars. Maybe the state of the

The big catch in all the talk about internations atomic bomb control is that no on- has yet come forward with any concrete ideas as to how it can be done.— wilkers Barre, Pa., News.

There are countris where food actually is being barvered for votes and independent thought coered by promises of material aids of various kinds.

—Rep. Frances P. Bolton of Ohio.

Marquis Childs Missouri Gan

Not So Solid



in the group immediate around the President the political side there great unappless to certain coant moves with the White House.

Chairman Robert Hanegan of the Democra National Committee wor like to see a few chang

stational Committees made, and quickly. Too often, the has complained, the President spropolitical significance of his acts. The b for much of this Hanness puts his low St. Louistan, John was puts his low st. L

conversion.

Oriticism against Snyder has been mounting in recent weeks. Snyder leans heavily this Deputy Administrator, Hans Kias brunn, whom he brought with him to the White House from the Reconstruction Fanance Corp. COMPLAINING BROOK

Klagsbrium, whose name in German mean complaining brook, is not the soul of tac In fact, he has been at odds with most (Snyder's staff at one time or another. Y Snyder relies on his fatiful lieutenant ar accepts his judgment on most matters.

snyder relies on his faithful lieutenant as accepts his judgment on most matters. Klassbrunn is credited with bringing about the appointment of Richard M. Bissell success of Deputy Administrator.

He is rated as a conservative economic adviser to Snyder. Bissell success of Deputy Administrator.

He is rated as a conservative economic and a Republican and his appointment to a important post within the White Damanda Republican and his appointment to a supportant post within the White Damanda Republican and his appointment to a proposition of the deministration program.

any event, the argument runs, without takin into the inner circles those who may not be convinced proponents of the Administratio program.

The President has thus far shown a stub born loyally to his old friend. Snyder, the resents any suggestion that Snyder shoul stry out of the difficult and controversal stry out of the difficult and controversal control of the control of the

Louis or to the pose on a terms.

JOB FOR FORTER

In an effort to get the White House on a more smooth running basis, the President it revenue to persuade Chairman Paul Porter of specific programment of the President's administrative assistants. Porter, but the president's administrative assistants. Porter, National Committee during the last campaign, is an effective operator with the light of the president of the President's deministrative assistants. Porter, but he had been president of the President's deministrative assistants. Porter of the President of the

other troubmite-shooter for the White House with Porters capabilities.

Truman faces a new year in which his relations with Congress are likely to worset and this in the face of Congressional elections next November. That is one of the main reasons why Hannegan is determine to strengthen the White House staff.

Bertram Benedict

Auto Prospects Dark In 1946

Dark in 1946.

With the General Motors strike continuation ing, with walkours threatening in other auto plants, with some of these curtailing activities because of shortage of parts, with strikes ilteratened in steel and decirtical better of the automobiles to be produced during 1946 have been revised downward.

The number of automobiles in use at the end of 1945 is estimated at about 24,000,000, aimost 600,000 fres than at the end of 1945 committee of the string of the string of 1945 and the end of 1945 committee of the string of 1945 committee of 1945 committee

rars now on the road is about 8 years, one in every four is ten years old or older.

THE OLD MODELS

To meet the demand more quickly, the leading automobile manufacturers are preparing to put out, not really new models, but the 1841 models slightly changed in appearing to put the 1841 models slightly changed in appear of writing the new retail prices have been set by OPA only for Ford. Mercury, and Studebaker. The price for Fords is slightly higher than the 1842 price, perhaps to allow COPA amonumements indicate that the prices on General-Motors cars will be around the 1842 levels.

So the long heralded era of radically different motor cars has been postponed for a within the fourth phase of development the automobile industry. The first phase, before the turn of the century, was the exerimental stage. There were then fewer than 1860 motor cars in operation.