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SATURDAY, MARCH 9, 1946

Touch of Irony For Jackson Day

NO more plaintive a message has been addressed to the Democratic Party of this Commonwealth than that received this week by W. P. Horton, head of the North Carolina Jackson Day Dinner Committee.

Mr. Hanegan referred, we presume, to the official tally, which lists 47 more Democrats than Republicans in the House and a majority of 18 Democrats in the Senate.

We are confident that North Carolina will do nothing to disturb that meaningful balance in the forthcoming Congressional elections; twelve theoretical Democrats now represent us in the House, and if a few of them fail to return to Washington it seems a foregone conclusion that their successors will also write (D) after their names.

But nobody knows better than Bob Hanegan, at the end of a bruising week in which it was impossible to tell a Republican from a Southern Democrat on the floor of the House, that the loyalty the North Carolina delegation feels for Andrew Jackson does not extend to Harry S. Truman.

man. The (D) still appeared after their names on the roster of votes against housing subsidies, but it was bracketed by the (R)s who control the coalition most of them have now joined. (There apparently was not a complete unanimity among the North Carolinians on all points in the housing bill, in the vote to strike out the provision for ceilings on existing dwellings, only eight of the twelve showed up as active members of the coalition—Reps. Kerr, Barden, Cooley, Durham, Doughton, Ervin, Bulwinkle, and Weaver.)

This adds up to tragic irony for Bob Hanegan personally, and for the Democratic Party. And we have an idea this bitter fruit of the one-party system will ultimately prove to be a tragedy for the nation.

Back-Handed Boost For Jimmy

WE noted here the other day that James Roosevelt, once considered by a good many nervous citizens the heir apparent to the Roosevelt Dynasty, had edged into politics by becoming the director of the Political Action Committee of the Independent Citizens Committee of the Arts, Sciences and Professions. We remarked at the time that what we knew of the PACICASP could be put in your eye, but we have since been enlightened.

A great authority on Americanism, Representative John Rankin of Mississippi, has revealed in Congress that the PACICASP is "one of the rankiest Communist front organizations of the whole country." Mr. Rankin was prompted to this revelation by Jimmy Roosevelt's announcement that his organization would bid for the support of liberals.

"For Jimmy," said the scholarly Mr. Rankin, "he may not know it, but he is no longer in a position to speak for the Democratic Party. He has now joined the Communists." The Congress apparently accepted the news rather quietly, although Representative Outland did arise to remark that, as usual, "everyone who disagrees with Mr. Rankin is a Communist."

People's Platform

WE concluded our original remarks on Jimmy's career with the prediction that an organization with as many initials as his new Committee isn't likely to do any politician any harm. Now, we're not so sure, for Representative Rankin's condemnation, certain to be regarded as an accolade by anybody familiar with the Rankin record, gives it the stamp of respectability. The struggling PACICASP has been given a Liberian Union, The Lawyer's Guild, the Newspaper Guild, and all those other long-established organizations that have felt the lash of Mr. Rankin's tongue. It appears now that Jimmy may yet be accorded the honor of a summons to an inquisition by the Un-American Committee which Mr. Rankin dominates.

If he can arrange to be denounced in the Senate by Theodore Bilbo, it may be that Jimmy Roosevelt has a bright political future after all. And, whatever names these gentlemen select to hurl at him, he always has the comfort of remembering that they will never be able to find one they had not previously applied to his father, the most successful politician in American history.

Incorrect Facts, Correct Conclusion

IT becomes our painful duty to correct a colleague who, in the course of arguing eloquently in defense of the ABC system, became badly tangled in his facts. The speaker's great morning newspaper, which stated our own position when we said: "Assuredly this newspaper presents no brief for liquor, or the use of it, but it believes from the record, that controlled distribution of liquor is the lesser of two evils."

And in this connection it might be interesting, and possibly profitable to recall that it was the late J. P. Caldwell, the founder of this great morning newspaper, himself no teetotaler, who observed at a banquet in 1936: "Liquor? I'll tell you what's wrong with liquor? It makes our damned fools of them who don't drink it." But, however delightful we may find The Advocate's long memory, we are constrained to note that the incident which served as a springboard for the editorial in Radio, earlier this week in Charlotte, was not the same. The Advocate's member of the police force was convicted of murder and sentenced to a long term in prison. It was in evidence that the accused went to a garage and demanded of the manager, who appeared also to have been engaged

in the bootleg liquor business in a rather large way, a substantial share of the man's profits in exchange for the law's indulgence.

The fact is that the convicted murderer was not a member of the Charlotte Police Department, but a hotel detective, and he could not have been peddling "the law's indulgence," although the State proved to the jury's satisfaction that he was trying to do himself in on bootleg profits. Although there was some rather peculiar testimony from Police Chief Anderson by which the defense tried to prove that the accused was serving in a semi-official capacity at the time, the weight of the evidence indicated that the fatal shooting occurred outside the law, where the bootleg business, of necessity, is carried on.

The Advocate's incorrect version of the affair may provide a neater illustration of its point that the murder "presents a gruesome contrast to the orderly, if deplorable, picture of . . . lawful acceptance of reality." However, consideration of the established facts in the case will, we think, lead to a more accurate and to the same conclusion. And it is of particular importance to keep the record straight in the discussion of liquor control; for the vast majority of the words tossed around so freely in the continuing debate are so patently unrelated to the facts.

Another Voice

Prohibiting Tax Collection

PROHIBITION—statewide, county-wide or nationwide—does not prohibit liquor from being sold at night clubs and dance joints just outside the city limits; it can be bought within three blocks of the state capital, without even asking for it. The only requirement is that in the night clubs and dance joints you keep your bottle under the table and mix your own drinks.

The local option bill in the General Assembly of South Carolina should therefore be rejected. It will not decrease the consumption of alcoholic beverages in South Carolina. Dry-voting Greenville drinks more whiskey than wet-voting Richmond and if local option were granted Greenville would vote dry and then simply go to the nearest wet county to get its liquor or find bootleggers to get it.—The Columbia Register.

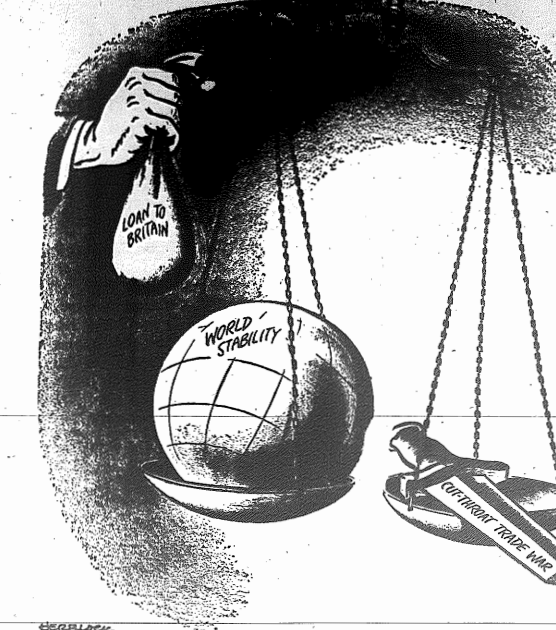
Science is wonderful. It works up leak-proof tanks for things like airplane gas, and carries an atomic bomb secret around in a sieve. Radar may be the answer to that vicious life during Spring housecleaning, when one enters the darkened room and throws himself down heavily where the davenport was.

Look Down, Look Down

IN reading a copy of the Charlotte News a few days ago, I noticed in Lynn Nisbett's column, quite a bit of criticism from Gov. Cherry directed at Grady Cole, Charlotte radio announcer, in regards to his comments about county roads in Mecklenburg County.

I am inclined to defend Mr. Cole on this matter, and when he sang the song over the radio, I turned over to the United Nations as they are called on "Travel On," he didn't lie. I have seen some of these roads myself and they really need attention. I worked as a Civil Engineer in the Georgia High-

way Department for a number of years and can readily see defects not only in the country roads but also in some of the so-called First Class paved roads, with the super elevation on the inside of the curves leading to throw vehicles off the road, instead of on the outside, where it belongs. In places too numerous to mention, you will find yourself going into a compound curve which continues to increase its curvature, carrying you at its termination into the end of a bridge. Any competent engineer will tell you, there should be a tangent of at least 100 feet from either end of a bridge.



People's Platform

Shortage Of Houses And Tempers

THE housing shortage isn't getting any shorter. But the patience of a lot of people is; also their tempers. Even the GI veterans are beginning to complain.

This may be of ominous portent, but it doesn't seem to worry our Congressmen and Senators. At any rate, as indicated by their actions, they do not regard the emergency sufficiently grave to do anything concrete, and in a short while there will be plenty of houses for those who can afford them.

Of course this procedure will entail many in-laws having to live indefinitely with their out-laws, or vice versa. This commingling and close communion will result, no doubt, in these folks coming to know and appreciate the another—and so decrease feelings. Verily, there is some good in every evil!

But the advocates of let-nature-take-its-course are not altogether unmindful of the housing needs of the GIs and others who cannot afford the high-priced houses that some day may be built. Soon there will be available for them two and two are four, duplexes, quadruplexes and plexes ad infinitum. In one respect these houses should appeal to housewives; there is plenty of closet space—in fact, the rooms are all closets.

Building these "homes" does not interfere with free enterprise, they are the result of the application of common sense to the partial solution of a perplexing problem: Make the house fit the income, rather than try to make the income fit the house.

Perhaps the legislators sponsored by the building industry are wiser than we know. What's the use of worrying about housing, if soon we are to be fighting Russia? For, in that event, the most desirable homes may be in abandoned mines deep in the bowels of the earth.

FLASH—Congress has passed the emasculated housing bill. —LEWIS AYER SMITH.

Harmful Thumbsucking

THE syndicated column, "Mirror of Your Mind," in the issue of March 5 stepped out of its field and made a big mistake. Let us hope the author knows more about psychology than he does about dentistry.

He states that "thumbsucking is harmless and that even the dentists don't take it as seriously as they used to." Thumbsucking is definitely a menace to mouth health, to appearance, and in many cases it produces malformed nasal passages which are conducive to the use of hearing aids.

A correction should be published and this letter forwarded to the author of the column.

PUBLICITY COMMITTEE N. C. DENTAL SOCIETY.

Practical Approach

ABOUT the ABC stores—here's how I feel. Every one that knows me knows I drink, so what's the use of hiding it, I can't serve two masters well. If I do I'm a hypocrite, so I'd rather let the world know I take a drink. But please don't let me be hypocritical and say that I don't drink. And I'd rather drink in a safe place and come out whole.

—E. T. OSTROM

Drew Pearson's Winnie's Proposal Several Years Late

WASHINGTON. The man who most vigorously opposed the Prime Minister regarding this was Gen. Al Wedemeyer, then Chief of the General Staff's war plans division. He maintained that a 30-70 troop ratio would mean that no second front could be started for at least one year and that the prolonged unsuccess would mean that at least a year to transport the required U. S. troops across the Atlantic, Wedemeyer argued, whereas the British could be sent in if they would go in on a ratio of 50-50.

Churchill on Hong Kong. He was very late, with Gen. Wedemeyer, however, and later suggested to FDR that Lord Louis Mountbatten be sent to India. He specifically asked that Wedemeyer be attached to Mountbatten. Wedemeyer had spent several years in India, knew German tactics, did not know the Far East. Despite that, Churchill got him transferred to India.

Churchill at Ottawa. At the Ottawa conference between Churchill and FDR, Gen. Marshall, clad with Sir Alan Brooke, British Chief of Staff, regarding Far Eastern operations. Marshall demanded faster action by the British in the India-Burma theater to keep Chiang from bolting the Castro conference.

Churchill on Second Front. At Casablanca in 1943, the question of a cross-channel invasion of France was discussed by Roosevelt and Churchill. The U. S. General Staff wanted it. The British didn't. Finally, Churchill said that if a second front was not opened to the United Nations as a pre-emptive of the invasion force, saddling the American Army with 70 per cent of the burden.

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Army Vs. Scientists

DR. Edward U. Condon, Chairman of the Board of Standards and one of the original researchers on some of the projects that were brought into the open a conflict long boiling beneath the surface. Their projects were aimed at acing scientists and the Army officers who supervise military research.

Another reason. There is, of course, another reason why it is difficult to get top scientists for essential Government research. We are beginning to pay for the short-handed policy of the military establishment in regard to scientific training. There is, of course, another reason why it is difficult to get top scientists for essential Government research. We are beginning to pay for the short-handed policy of the military establishment in regard to scientific training.

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Samuel Grafton

This Tired World

MR. TRUMAN is tired. Mr. Churchill is tired. He would not have traveled to Florida for a rest and the world is tired. It is perhaps not so important to measure our current Western hullabaloo about Russia against the perspective of the world's history.

BRITISH FUNCTION. It is clear in the case of Mr. Churchill, and again it is not necessary to impugn motives. The existence of the Russian problem gives a kind of social function to the British Empire in this world, which it would not have without it.

MEANEOR SAVIOR. To a man who has come so poor and pathetic out of the war, these thoughts must be lively reminders of the life of the Emperor, and from this point of view it is a little surprising that when Russia is a menace to the Empire, or its savior.

STRANGE JOURNEY. Mr. Churchill is very hard to account for; many commentators are amazed that he should have chosen to go to Greece during the ex-Prime Minister's attack on the Allied power. It is felt that, when Mr. Churchill is in a position to have a new career, and what the fruit of it shall be, no man can say.

CONCLUSION. The Mediterranean theater was to be British-dominated. Churchill then went to Turkey and made a public statement to that effect.

Churchill On Mediterranean

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CAPITAL CHAFF. NORTH CAROLINA'S Chairman, Bob Doughton, of the House Ways and Means Committee not only believes that people should continue paying the wartime excess tax rates on luxuries such as furs, but also that children should continue paying the wartime excess tax on movie tickets. He says Doughton, "Kids don't have to go to the movies—they're luxury."