

The Real Definition Of Economy

THE proposed City-County bond issue, upon which the citizenry will soon be voting, is up for discussion now. A formal organization has been established to promote the twelve projects on mass, and is urging voters to go down the line for the entire "program of progress." From the other side sniping at various proposals has been initiated, and we have even heard blanket condemnation, in the public prints and elsewhere, of the entire program—school expansion, sewer, water, and playgrounds.

There may be good reason to doubt the wisdom of initiating some of the various projects on the list, although we have not yet found it. But we are more concerned with the instinctive reaction of those who oppose the bond issue, in whole or in part, simply because it involves the spending of public money, and an increase in the tax rate. These are the exponents of "economy," who take that maltrated word to mean no spending rather than efficient spending.

It has been estimated by the experts that the 12-point program will cost the city \$2,400,000. This is a very small sum of money for the project evaluation, and the residents of this county 21.62 per hundred. The bulk of this tax increase (it figures out to about a nickel a day for the average city home-

owner) will go to cover the essential expenditures for water, sewer, and schools. Only a very small portion—say a penny a day—goes for the so-called "luxury" items—airport, library, auditorium, playgrounds, etc.

That penny a day is the price of living in a city. The money will go to pay for those projects essential to healthy urban life that have been postponed in the past, and to meet the needs of the foreseeable future. It seems to me that every citizen who finds fault with this town as it is, and believes that Charlotte is destined to grow during the next two decades as it did in the last two, has a clear obligation to vote "yes" all the way down the line.

We cannot acquire the things we need—and the so-called "luxury" items are, in their way, as essential as any of the projects on the list—through a painless miracle. They will cost money. Not much money, when it is spread around on a per capita basis, but some money. If we are not willing to spend it now, in these, the flush times the town has known or is likely to know, there is no reason to believe we ever will. This is why this bond election is far more important than the various projects it will underwrite—it is, as we have said before, a vote of confidence in Charlotte's future.

Confusion In Cherry Blossom Time

MAYBE Congress has been in session too long; maybe the gentlemen need a good rest. It's warm and lovely in Washington these days, but even the soothing breezes laden with the scent of cherry blossoms (Japanese) soothe ragged Congressional nerves. We find Senator Murray (D) ordering Senator Taft (R) evicted from a committee room after a boisterous, table-pounding argument.

Senator Morse (R) announces bitterly that his own Party is pursuing the course of blind reaction and seems likely to elect President Truman (D). And some 50 Southern legislators (D, sir, of course), bless their sensitive little souls, are afumf and asortin' and demand' that Bob Hargis (D) chairman (that is, publicly apologize for a disparaging remark published in a (D) Party organ.

of the people. If this is getting a little confusing, consider the further fact that the Case Bill was specifically designed to take away certain rights and/or privileges of organized labor previously conferred by a Democratic Administration at the time when it had the whole-hearted, even fervid support of many of the Democrats who are now after Mr. Hargis's scalp for permitting a Party organ to state publicly what is obviously official Party policy.

And consider further the corollary action of these staunch Southerners forced to vote with the Republicans in order to uphold their convictions and now grievously insulted by the Democratic Leadership, but still refusing to formally join the Republican coalition which commands their loyalty.

The Southern Democrats had themselves a meeting after they read in the Democratic Digest that "passage of the restrictive Case (labor disputes) Bill was a vote against the American people." They had sources, of course, to spread and stomp, of course, for Mr. Hargis's Democratic Party, and Republican-sponsored measure and most of them came from the Coghorne belt.

We conclude, after studying the protest drafted by the Southerners, that their resentment is based upon the fact that they consider their vote for the Case Bill not a vote against the American people, but a vote for the American people. And that, of course, is very interesting, for it makes their one-time mortal enemies, the Republicans, champions of the people, and makes their own Democratic Party, which officially fought the Case Bill, an enemy

Yes, we think it's time the gentlemen came home and took a nice long rest, somewhere in the shade where the voices of their constituents will be heard faintly, if at all. It would soothe their ragged nerves and cool their heated tempers, and it would also benefit the country, giving the poor confused voters a respite from the terrible strain of trying to sort out the (D)s and the (R)s in Washington, a place where a Congressman's words and his acts no longer seem to have any relation. In the meantime we could all turn our attention to a really urgent problem.

Was Harry Truman, an old haberdasher himself, guilty of heresy when he wore a striped cravat with a dinner jacket at a banquet honoring the late Andrew Jackson, patron saint of the Democratic (or was it Republican?) Party?

Getting Rid Of A \$52,500 Bag

CITY Council, we think, acted with considerable wisdom in voting this week to dispose of the property it purchased some months ago when a remarkably anonymous donor announced that he would put \$50,000 into a Veterans' Recreation Center if it were created according to his plans. The City, having purchased a North Poplar Street lot as its share of the deal, was left holding a \$52,500 bag when it developed that some of the conditions imposed by the donor were illegal and the offer was withdrawn.

Mayor Baxter, who was largely responsible for the City's purchase of the property, has argued all along that anonymous donor or no, the Veterans' Center should and would be constructed sooner or later, and that the City should hang onto the lot. In his absence, three Councilmen sided with him, but four others decided the time had come to get out from under.

Whatever the merit of the Veterans' Center (construction of such a project at a time when many Charlotte veterans are desperately seeking a place to live has always struck us as conspicuous cruelty) it seems clear that money does not now exist to finance it. Even if another donor were discovered, or a method worked out whereby the City could underwrite the entire cost, building is not now feasible, nor is it likely to be for many months to come.

When, and if, the Council decides the time has come to erect a Veterans' Center, we are confident that suitable property will be available, perhaps not in the same location but in an appropriate enough spot. Then, when all the Council's ducks are in a neat row, a lot can be purchased. In the meantime we can see no point in keeping \$52,500 of the City's money tied up in real estate for which there is no immediate use. Such a course would only serve to compound what a majority of councilmen now seem to believe was their original error.

Another Voice

The Bootleggers Win Again

DOWN in Tarhella, where 25 Eastern North Carolina counties sell whiskey legally, but the rest of the State relies on bootleggers, an interesting election has just been held. It was in Rockingham County, in the textile-manufacturing Piedmont, which voted against ABC stores in 1935 by a margin of about 500. The same county has just voted the same way again, but by a majority more than five times that of 11 years ago.

Here is a phenomenon of concern to Virginians. Piedmont and Western North Carolina have always been predominantly prohibitionist, but when one of their counties has more than quinquies its dry majority, it has usually been a result of a landslide 2 to 1, we should take notice.

This would indicate that there are many of people here and there, many of them entirely sincere, who prefer illegal liquor to legal liquor, and who will vote for prohibition in the old-fashioned way, which yields no revenue to any body but moonshiners, bootleggers and other criminals and racketeers.

John Sprunt Hill, of Durham, a leading Presbyterian minister, carried a newspaper advertisement declaring that the ABC stores were a great blessing. In Durham, and had driven out 556 speak-easies and some 1,200 bootleggers. J. M. Sharp, prominent Raleigh attorney, published a newspaper advertisement in which he said: "I am a prohibitionist. I fought for prohibition in the old days. . . . After many years of disillusion, I say that instead of 15 barrooms we had 50 blind tigers. In 1945 I went to all kinds of meetings, bar meetings and doctors' banquets, and these were not the worst element, but our so-called 'best people.' I saw liquor flow freely among churchmen and non-churchmen alike. These people who carry the county wet by 10 to 1 if they voted like they drink."

The county went dry by 2 to 1. Write your own answer.—Richmond Times-Dispatch.

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People's Platform

The Wisdom Of Kipling

I ENCLOSE a copy of Rudyard Kipling's incomparable "The Gods of the Copybook Headings" which I suggest you republish in an early issue of your valued newspaper. To me it is not only a powerful statement of the wisdom of the ages, but the prominent politico-economic sophistries of our time.

tests will develop a "war-hat" if it such what would be the condition of our prestige?

If we want to figure the full effects of the atomic energies why could they not use a bomb say 1/20th the size of the one used at Tokyo, then the results displayed they could get all the answers desired.

A large atomic bomb would produce for sure the greatest tidal wave the world has ever known, and the disastrous results would be clearly revealed in all parts of the world where ocean tidal waters stand.

The initial explosive force would be dissipated in forming a large crater in the sea, with this would be produced immense walls of water of unknown height which would be pushed forward due to the force of the initial explosion and pushed forward by its momentum to all parts of the water surface and the destruction of the shore territories. The effect of these waves on the shore would into the direct explosive force to other objects.

The heat generated will be intense and will evaporate large volumes of water and this will cause huge rainfalls—lets try out Woe Junior before he let go giant Granpa. Senior, the proof of the pudding is in the eating but do not gulp it down, eat it gradually and thus avoid indigestion.

—T. F. MAGUIRE

THE GODS OF THE COPYBOOK HEADINGS
By Rudyard Kipling

AS I pass through my incarnations in every age and time, I make my poor prostrations to the Gods of the Market Place. Peering through reverent fingers I watch them flourish and fall, And the Gods of the Copybook Headings, I notice, outlast them all.

We were living in trees when they met us. They showed us each in turn that water would certainly flow, and that fire would certainly burn. But we found them lacking in Uplift, Vision and Breadth of Mind. So we left them to teach the Gorillas while we followed the March of Mankind.

We moved as the Spirit listed. They never altered their pace, Being neither cloud nor wind-borne like the Gods of the Market Place, and the always caught up with our progress, and presently would come, that a tribe had been wiped off its world, or the lights had gone out of Home.

With the Hopes that our world is built on they were utterly out of touch. They denied that the Moon was Saturn; they denied that we were even Dutch; They denied that Wishes were Horses; they denied that a Pig had Wings; So we worshipped the Gods of the Market, Who promised beautiful things. They promised perpetual peace. They swore, if we gave them our weapons, that the wars of the world would cease. And the Gods of the Copybook Headings said: "Stick to the Devil you know."

On the first Pentecost, when we were promised the Fuller Life (which started by loving our neighbor and ended by loving his wife. Till our world was nothing but a ruin, and we returned to reason and faith, And the Gods of the Copybook Headings said: "The Wages of Sin is Death."

And the Gods of the Copybook Headings said: "If you don't work you die."

On the second Pentecost, when we were promised the smooth-tongued wizards withdrew, And the hearts of the meaneest were humbled and began to believe, and we were told that the world was full of Glitters, and Two and Two make Four—And the Gods of the Copybook Headings limped up to explain that once more we had been deceived.

As it will be in the future, it was at the birth of Man—There are only four things certain since that first beginning—That the Dog returns to his vomit and the Sow returns to her Mire, And the hurtful Poels bandaged finger goes wabbling back to the Fire.

And that after this is accomplished, and the brave new world begins, When all men are paid for existing and no man must pay his sin, As surely as Water will wet us, as surely as Fire will burn, The Gods of the Copybook Headings with terror and slaughter return!

Avoiding Indigestion

IT IS SAID that atomic bomb tests are to be put off indefinitely — Is there not a fear that the

TO Arms!

IT DON'T seem funny, but it does seem queer, when Stalin says he's for peace. Yes but he did not say for how long; he's playing the same game the Japs and Nazis did, look out for number two Pearl Harbor act, only in another part of the country.

We're now having saps in Canada for how long, and why and so the same here in this country — we always and always will, as long as we are true Americans, hate any kind of Jim. We have to and should be ready at all times for what we are not looking for—war III.

I believe all we young should do our part in training to be ready at all times for another attack of Jim, as we will sooner find out than I believe we really realize. Don't let us fall for Stalin's soft soap talk, which if it is true or not we don't know. Speaking of peace while he's hogging all smaller nations, also sabotaging countries occupied—and we should be giving up for sleeping soundly to go to our door, never—and if our news correspondents are not allowed in Russia or countries occupied by what that shows they are and have been getting ready for war.

After all we been the party, then winning this war with Germany. So does more we give them, more we help them, it will bounce to their back on us, same as Pearl Harbor—so let the lam that bites our hand feed themselves.

—T. O. OSTROM

The People's Platform is available to any reader who cares to mount it. Communications should be less than 300 words, typewritten if possible, and on only one side of the paper. Libel and obscenity will be deleted—otherwise they go. Each letter must be signed, although, in exceptional cases and upon request, we will withhold the writer's name.—Editors, This News.

Drew Pearson's • 25 Years Ago We Were Disarming

IT was just 25 years ago that the United States was host to another great diplomatic gathering—the Washington Arms Conference, attended by the world's leading statesmen—Charles Evans Hughes, Lord Balfour of England, Aristide Briand of France, Premier Kato of Japan. They were men big enough to speak for their Governments without having each semi-colon in their speeches cabled from home. They were also able to speak eloquently, so eloquently that they became more cynical, more discouraged, more disillusioned.

That was a day when there was great hope for peace. The United States had conceived the idea that if we took the lead in scrapping our battleships, our Italian would be contagious and other nations would follow suit.

There followed other conferences, the Geneva Naval Conference of 1921, the London Naval Conference of 1930, the various League of Nations disarmament conferences, too numerous to mention. With each one, a little more of the world's hope, a little more of the brave new idealism was the United States gave the Washington Arms Conference in 1921 abedding. The conference, especially the Americans, became more cynical, more discouraged, more disillusioned.

Even Aristide Briand, veteran crusader for a warless world, no longer was sincere in his efforts to disarm. He sat at the delegates' table and dozed, a discouraged old man. He had spent a lifetime battling for disarmament and he had lost.

One of those who consistently strove for disarmament at Geneva was the Russian Foreign Minister, Maxim Litvinov. He was always present, always the center of new-

paper attention, always made headlines with his demand that nations disarm their armies and navies entirely. Perhaps it was because Russia didn't have a big army in those days, or perhaps because it was smart policy to needle the isolationist countries. Anyway Litvinov consistently pooch-pooched the American-British formula for 5-5-3 ratios on battleships, or for limiting the number of 10,000-ton cruisers. He wanted to abolish all armament.

Things Have Changed

A LOT of things have changed since then—but in Moscow and New York. Russia today has the greatest army in the world. She has kept on calling new men to the colors to replace discharged veterans until her army today is stronger as during the war. And the United States which had been looking forward to its old peacetime volunteer army, now awaits President Truman's speech at Chicago, expects to call for a conscript army of one and a half million men—the first time in history that we have ever dreamed of such a force in days of peace.

But despite these pessimistic overtones, certain encouraging factors are in the background of the UNO meeting in New York. In the first place American public opinion, in fact most of world opinion, is more alert and intelligent than ever before. Perhaps this is due to the more direct, more powerful as it is, spriges from flouting world opinion—too flatteringly.

Up to his own way and may take his own sweet time about answering notes. But it won't go to war over Iran or anything else short of an invasion of its own territory. And when you remember that not so many years ago he was

Marquari Childs
Wall Around Russia

A TRAVELER just returned from Moscow says that the Russians are planning a brilliant and somewhat surprising strategy to explain why Soviet Russia remains, and in all probability will remain, a closed world.

The masters of the Kremlin, he says, are the masters of a brilliant and an elaborate and extended version of the mind of the Russian people. The Russians do not want anyone around who will distract the people with idle chatter while the great operation is going on. When the operation is finished, the mind of the people presumably will have been fortified against all the elements of the West.

You can't help wondering about what has gone on in the mind of the Russians and how they have walked out of the United Nations Security Council when the Council rejected the Russian proposal for the Iranian issue. In his lonely isolation, Andrei Gromyko gives no clue as to the truth.

In many reports, Gromyko is a product of the Bolshevik Revolution. His whole life has been lived under the terms of Soviet Communism. The first test of that is the question of whether he will have higher authority, submission to iron-clad dogma.

One of the conspicuous qualities of the Soviet mind is suspicion. While it goes back into ancient history, that suspicion in recent years has been directed at the United States. It is important to try to examine Gromyko's position and what influence it may have on the Soviet attitude. Comparatively young (he is 37 years old), Gromyko finds himself in the middle of a crisis, conducting a long way from Moscow. His instructions must come by letter from his bosses back home who inevitably have an even more prejudiced view of the situation than the Soviet leadership. The Soviet Council than does Gromyko, who at least has seen it at first hand.

It is hard to see how the Soviet delegate must seem to be a lone, embattled figure. You

can look at the other members of the Council and see how they are set up in terms of propaganda. Stalin's election speech, for instance, was a masterpiece of propaganda. He said alone against the other powers. In this he was right. The United States has been the Soviet Union's enemy since the Russian Revolution. Mexico and Brazil are satellites of the United States, so is India. France and the Netherlands can be put down; under these same terms, a division of the Western European area that Britain is charged with trying to build against the Soviet Union.

On the Iranian issue, Egypt will be a victim. Iran, Dr. Chou Teh-chi of China, representative of the National Government and Moscow has no great trust in the Government of Chiang Kai-shek.

TWO FRIENDS

Taking this grim, embattled view, Moscow has two possible friends on the Council—the United States and the Soviet Union. The United States, who voted consistently with Gromyko. The other is the delegate from Australia, who has been in the United States since the war. Australia's readiness under British policy made in London and who, on one occasion, voted with the Soviet Union.

In such a view, the world has not changed at all. The old world of power politics, of conquest, of winning take all. This seems to be the view that the Russians hold every basic move of the Soviet Union.

Unfortunately, here in this country, from time to time we give Russia reason to believe that that view conforms to the truth. It is a reason on complete sovereignty over island bases in the Far Pacific. We talk about the United States being ready to be kept as a military threat forever. A large section of the press breathes continuous hatred and threats of war.

EMPTY VICTORIES

A victory for Britain and the United States in the Security Council will be a "victory" for Russia in Iran will be a "victory" for Russia. We will be left with a victory across a barrier of suspicion.

Is there any cure? Perhaps if Stalin and Gromyko were to see the country and saw for himself what we are all about, it might mean a change in the Soviet attitude. It is improbable. But the time we live in is fantastic and improbable.

Samuel Grafton

German Democracy

WE Americans have picked Germany as the place to tell the world that we can't know what we can't know. Mr. C. L. Sulzberger of the Times quotes an AMG officer as complaining that we allow no history to be taught in the first eight grades of the German school system. Nazi textbooks and texts have been withdrawn, but nothing new has been moved in to fill the vacuum. So far as the German school system is concerned, the country has had no history, a situation which must be quite confusing to the little students.

In the high schools only a few "history spinsters" remain as "history instructors" to tell the great rolling story of the world's recent past. Since most of these creatures are colored by their own prejudices, they have been found unobjectionable to the Japs and Nazis and ourselves. One doubts that they are qualified to debug the overtones and fine points of the global narrative.

Ours is the zone in which nothing happens. It is true we have "history" in our own country, but in spite of lapses in some areas; at least we have fired more Germans from their jobs than have been occupying force; but that was an operation which could be carried out in a mechanical way, on the basis of routine tests and questionnaires; an operation not uncommon in the army which is the basis of a man with a rule book, and seeing which comes out ahead.

UNREAL LIFE

Since there is life in our zone seems to have taken on the unpolitical quality of life in a Hollywood movie. It is a life of a walk down the street, somewhere a child cries, sometimes there are raids and military parades, but it is the last week-end; but it is playful, and unreal, and there is no life in which life goes on in, say, Camden, New Jersey, or in Rome.

For the difficulty is that it is quite impossible to tell people about democracy; you have to let them see it. It is as hard to teach democracy from a platform as it is to teach swimming. But to let history teachers, politicians, and meetings, parades, newspapers, handbills, strikes, debates and other

AMERICAN ISSUE

And in speaking for a greater degree of free political action in our zone, the Russians at least in those who are on their side; we don't even do that; we are in the strange position of having a year of process in our fear of what the future will bring. We have even more, of what the left might do, we have made ourselves doctors of a philosophy of life.

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Prohibition Again

IT hasn't got much publicity but prohibition is reported gaining in leaps and bounds in local option elections throughout the country.

Four new counties, including two in Arkansas and one in Florida, have changed from the wet to the dry column in the last two months, while prohibition is being carried on big drives in Indiana and other states to make them dry.

"Yes, we're going to dry Indiana up again," boasted L. E. York, superintendent of the Indiana Anti-Saloon League, in a radio broadcast.

In some areas, prohibition leaders are placing signs on children near polling places to urge voters to cast a dry ballot.

Meanwhile few people realize that of the 3,070 counties in the United States, 923—or more than one-fourth—are now dry.

However, despite the strides that have been made by dry forces, Congress probably will not be persuaded into adopting another prohibition amendment to the Constitution for at least two reasons:

The opposition of (1) war veterans, and (2) loss of Federal tax revenues. In 1945, the Federal Government collected \$2,400,000,000 and State Governments \$600,000,000 in 1946 in alcoholic beverages.