

THURSDAY, MAY 2, 1946

Those Vibrations Started In The Lobby

There is a chance, really, that there isn't some patented device for measuring public sentiment, a machine with a large dial measured off into "yes", "no", and "well, maybe". But there isn't, and politicians still have to rely on ears placed against the ground. This loose and inexact method does not always serve them well, for the tremors and vibrations set up by pressure groups close at hand sometimes convince them they are listening to an authentic stirring among the grass roots.

Editors and telegrams from constituents once served as a sort of gauge, but no more. These days a Congressman who has made up his mind that OPA must go simply regards the flood of protests that reach him as phony, inspired, probably, by the PAC, or the Kremlin. There are statements in Washington which will stand up in good conscience, and declare that the folks back home are so riled up about these here price controls they won't tolerate 'em another day. Nothing Mr. Gallup may say will convince them that the roaring they mistake for the anger of the people is really a kettle drum serenade conducted by the press agents of the National Association of Manufacturers.

Heaven knows we, thrusting our own wet little finger into the great wind, would like to estimate the extent of the opposition to OPA. This, certainly, and it isn't confined to the sharp citizens who would welcome inflation as an opportunity to grab off a fast dollar. Many businessmen, big, small and medium-sized, are suffering a red-faced reaction, but not turning a leaf to OPA. This is really a kettle drum serenade conducted by the press agents of the National Association of Manufacturers.

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War as a handy excuse for empty shelves, and perhaps even for his own inefficiency. But there are indications that even among businessmen there is a vast division of opinion. Eric Johnston, president of the United States Chamber of Commerce, advises in public to do his own board of directors and warn that death of OPA will bring on ravenous inflation and leave "American business so far in the doghouse it will never get out again." Davison's Department Store of Atlanta, Augusta and Macon follows the lead of its parent company. Macy's of New York, and bursts forth with full-page ads supporting a continuation of price controls. New organizations of manufacturers and retailers are springing up here and there across the country and sending lobbyists to Washington to support OPA.

All this is heartening, for there was a great danger that the NAM's loud voice would be mistaken for the voice of all of American business. Few people, even few Congressmen, we suspect, understand that the NAM is a loose organization dominated and financially supported by a few giant corporations. There is reason to doubt whether the current half-million dollar advertising campaign against price controls meets with the approval of a majority of the membership, although there has been an open opposition within the ranks.

For obvious financial reasons, the great majority of consumers are sold on OPA. If there is, as there appears to be, a sharp division of opinion among the producers and distributors, who suffer under OPA's selling restrictions, this would appear to insure a rather substantial majority support for continuation of price controls. These calculations, inexact as they are, should be of prime interest to those Congressmen who, holding their ears against the ground in Washington, have so far been able to hear only the rumbling in the outer lobby.



People's Platform Toward A Better Day

CONGRATULATIONS on your editorial of April 25th called "The Visitor at St. John's". It sounds so reasonable and well-rounded. It seems to me more of this sort of thing could do a lot toward promoting greater understanding and tolerance. Thank you.

—RUTH STEELE

(NOTE: Tolerance is a two-edge business, and indications of mutual understanding are, unfortunately, as rare among the more militant Negro groups as in the Ku Klux Klan. We are pleased, therefore, to reprint here an extract from the "M. E. Zion Church paper," "The Missionary Sphere," which approaches the problem of race relations from the Negro's angle. It is entitled, "Let Us Be Tolerant Too":

"It is well to remember that the phobias of race prejudice and intolerance is by no means confined to any one race. Only a bit of self-examination will reveal that Negroes, Jews, Japs, Chinese, or any others in the minority groups has as hard a fight against race prejudice within their own hearts as does the majority group in this country. Were the situation reversed in every respect, we dare say prejudice, race and religion discriminations would be equally as pronounced as it is today. It takes an extra big Christian spirit for a man or woman of any race not to take advantage of a top position and look down upon those he or she feels are on a lower level of life...

"In connection with our being more tolerant with intolerance in others, the Negro must not forget that the Race has numerous white friends in the South, some of whom put their political and social destiny on the altar of sacrifice in behalf of the Negro. Think of Dr. Will Alexander of Atlanta, now heading the Southern Race Relations Organization; Judge John J. Parker of North Carolina; Governor Arnall of Georgia; Dr. John W. Rustin, native of South Georgia, now pastor of Mount Vernon Place Church, Washington, D. C.; The Montgomery Advertiser; The Charlotte News; and The Greensboro Daily News.—There is Dr. Foreman, head of the Southern Conference for Human Welfare who is a Southern man who fights for minority rights; also the organization of Southern Church Women; all these people "back their backs" way out for the Negro and other minorities, and live in the South while they do it.

"Dr. Rustin was born and brought up in South Georgia, educated at Emory University in that state, yet the Negro has no more fair and outspoken friend than Dr. Rustin, Governor Arnall of Georgia, has surely jeopardized his political future in that state in order to establish the well to do and other...

Atlanta
THE Third Biennial Southern Labor Conference meets in Asheville, N. C. May 11 and 12 at the City Auditorium.

ATLANTA
The Second Biennial Southern Labor Conference held in the Municipal Auditorium at Atlanta, Ga., in 1942 there were 4,673 accredited delegates present. We are expecting a much larger delegation at the Asheville Conference. In addition to all of the Southern and National officials of the American Federation of Labor on the program as speakers we will have several outstanding business and Governmental officials to speak.

Industrial relations and labor questions are a vital part of our economy and society and we are particularly anxious to have as wide a newspaper coverage of the Asheville Conference as possible.

In the future as in the past all of the American Federation of Labor activities in your community and throughout the South will be directed and controlled exclusively by our leadership in your own community and in your state and supervised exclusively by our own experienced Southern officials. Our constructive Southern policy of the past will be continued in perpetuity.

—GEORGE L. GOOGE
Southern Representative American Federation of Labor.

"The American people still have the freedom of electing whom they wish to have for their President. We would have elected President Roosevelt even if we had only had five newspapers in the United States that supported him. The people are not much concerned or influenced by the newspapers any more.—They have their own intelligence to help them decide who shall be their President and Commander-in-Chief.

As for Roosevelt's health, all I can say is I am sorry for them. There wasn't much they could do about Roosevelt, for he had charted and planned a program for the people of the whole world to follow and carry on.

He brought us Victory, and left us the program to carry on, so he is still our President and Commander-in-Chief.

Charlotte
I HAVE just read C. F. Jones' letter in regards to the Democratic Party and our late President Roosevelt's liberal and progressive policies. And here are some of the newspapers and the Roosevelt-haters wanting our Presidential term limited to one six-year term.

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Marquis Childs Coal & World Crisis

WASHINGTON
ANY PROOF were needed of the way in which the world is tied together, it would be found in this business. In any part of the world the strike continues a few days longer.

DANGER AFOOT
It is Germany's coal that is the danger spot in the world coal picture.

The French are indignant that such a large share of German production from the Ruhr mines should be going to Britain. In January, only the Ruhr mines are in the British zone, their indignation is aimed chiefly at the stability in Germany.

The confidential figures of German production are very revealing. They show that, in January, coal production in the American, British and French zones was just under 8,000,000 tons. Of this total, 1,200,000 tons were exported and, of that amount, 700,000 went to France. Thus Germany was left with more than 4,000,000 tons. In addition, the Germans had enough lignite or brown coal to make the equivalent of another million tons.

Why, the French demand, should they be asked to make the equivalent back in order to give the Germans so much more coal than they are getting in America? They are inclined to be sympathetic with this viewpoint.

On the other hand, the commanders in the German occupation zones are primarily concerned with the stability in Germany.

The British are in a particularly difficult position. Coal production in Britain has been dropping steadily downward ever since the end of the war, in spite of constant subsidies by the Labor government to the coal miners. The workers grumble that the prospect of nationalization has brought no improvement in their lot.

OUTMODDED MACHINERY
The fact is that Britain's coal mines are operated with outmodded machinery and by methods long since abandoned in this country. Miners must work in shafts only four feet deep. It is an industry that has long been coasting downhill.

Coal is the key to the recovery of Western Europe. For the moment, American coal is the key. And John L. Lewis, the man with the key in his pocket, shows a stony unconcern for the fate of the world.

The Veterans' Vocational Problem

THIS is Veteran's Opportunity Week, a period designated by the Veterans Administration to acquaint the citizenry with the staggering vocational problem now arising in our midst. There are some 400,000 veterans of World War II in North Carolina now, and more on the way. The majority of them, of course, have fitted themselves into the old pattern they abandoned when they were called into the service, but thousands of others are starting all over again, seeking new jobs to replace those that disappeared in their absence, or no longer seem desirable.

The VA, though its on-the-job training program makes available funds to guarantee income during the period of their unemployment. But VA cannot hunt up jobs for them, or force employers to institute the sort of training that is required. That, the VA feels, is a community responsibility, one in which businessmen will be glad to cooperate when they are assured of a steady flow of new workers.

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ing in a variety of businesses, but there are 746 others looking for openings right now. Beyond them there are 1,000 North Carolina veterans of World War II drawing disability pensions, virtually all of whom are potential job-seekers.

If there is any man among us who has an undispensed claim to public sympathy and understanding it is the man who was maimed in the service of his country. But sympathy and understanding are not enough; the man with one leg or one arm wants a job that will guarantee his independence and bolster his self-respect. And there are, in almost any business, jobs he is physically qualified to fill. Records of the Department of Labor show that disabled workmen, when properly placed, establish better work records than their unhandicapped fellows.

E. A. Terrell, a Charlotte businessman has taken the lead in organizing a voluntary committee of civic club representatives to insure that every veteran will be "Veteran's Opportunity Week". The committee will seek on-the-job training possibilities for all veterans, acquainting businessmen with the requirements for participation in the VA program. Like the VA itself the committee will give first priority to the needs of disabled veterans. We can think of no worthier project.

Labor Looks South

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The People's Heritage

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The Comrades Have The Jitters

THE Communist Party, if you remember, denounced Comrade Earl Browder out of his old post as secretary general last July. In February they had him completely out of the Party, knocking his card on the ground that he had become a reactionary opponent of "capitalist co-operation". The trace of the war years has ended, announced William Z. Foster, Comrade Browder's successor, and the class war will be resumed in all its fury.

But with the departure of Comrade Browder there seems to develop a coolness between Mother Russia and the American Communists. When the Russian consul threw a party for Ilya Ehrenburg, one of the visiting Russian dignitaries, at the Plaza (the Plaza, mind you, that red plush clearing of capitalism when F. Scott Fitzgerald's characters used to sleep off their hangovers) not a single member of the Daily Worker staff was bidden to attend.

And then last week came the crowning blow. Comrade Browder, the backslider, decided to trans-Atlantic plane to LaGuardia Field. His ticket read "Moscow." And it was as obvious as the hammer and sickle on the Worker's masthead that Comrade

Browder had been summoned to the Kremlin, possibly to receive instructions for purging the American party and reinstating the old line.

This drove the Daily Worker right off its runner. It published one of the most scathing editorials in its fantastic career, attacking the New York Times for printing the story of Comrade Browder's departure on the front page.

It is quite clear from this choice tidbit that the comradely press understands very clearly the conspiratorial motives of the Browder trip and knows quite well how to collaborate with Browder in his activities.

For the essence of the Browder trip is that it is in a line of provocations intended to reinforce the typical reactionary falsehood that the American Communist party has organizational connection abroad.

Having thus put Comrade Browder on the August Times in bed together, the Worker reaffirmed its faith in Comrade Foster and "Marxist-Leninist Science". But the editorial voice kept fluffing off in falsetto. It was one of the most nervous performances we can remember, and it left no doubt in our minds that America's Communists have had to renege under their beds, see if there's a Morgan partner lurking there.

Another Voice

Concerning A Bad Habit

TO the election of attorneys at law to the legislature The News and Courier has no objection. The News and Courier insists that not 45 or 40 or 20 per cent of the members of the General Assembly should be doctors, pharmacists, plumbers, electricians, electric linemen, bankers, spinners or attorneys. Attorneys are not best equipped to make the laws and spend the money of the citizens than are members of other trades and professions. As for passing bills and attending to other details to which attorneys have training, the News and Courier has no objection. Attorneys are best equipped to make the laws and spend the money of the citizens than are members of other trades and professions. As for passing bills and attending to other details to which attorneys have training, the News and Courier has no objection.

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Samuel Grafton

The Road To Manteo

AT Cape Charles the local school board is worried about the fact that six high school pupils are in the military service. They are worried because they are afraid that they will be called up to fight in the war.

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Another viewpoint
But on the long coastal drive down to Manteo one hears another point of view from an ex-soldier repairing a Ford truck motor in the open sun. "The whole country's going damn fool," he says. "I'm going back into the Army. I had five years but I'm going back. Why? You can't get any fun out of civilian life. It's a racket for a reason and you can see by the way he reaches for it that it isn't really the reason any way he reaches. You can't get any food. Follow around there killed a best in the other day and he sold pieces and somebody turned him in and he was only helping folks out."

This doesn't add up as a reason for going back overseas but he is very discontented on this sweetest of country roads with the ocean no distance away. "I go to teach officers," he says abruptly. He is discontented and he worries one the way high school girls who cut classes to get their hair waved worry the school board back at Accomack County, Virginia. And one cuts down the narrow highway to Roanoke Island, and Manteo, where one can be with the strand, beach, and away from the world.

ONE WORLD
But the world is one, and all