Caution: Free Men At Work

DERHAPS," said Senator Olin Johnston of South Carolina, "it would be good for all of us to arise on Monday morning and find that we are free Americans once

artien, and we are free. How does the American system look?

In Charlotte some property owners are preparing to raise rents as much as 35 per cent, but realtors are urging that the initial increases be held to a mere 15 per cent. In Miami landlords blandly announced rent increases of as much as 250 per cent. The national average was heading toward 31-13 per cent.

Charlotte meat packers, intermittently on strike against the OPA for months, very constring full blast yesterday and promised an adequate supply of fresh beef by midweek. For how much? Not more than 15 per cent over old ceilings, they hope. On the national front meat packers were forecasting price increases of ten to 20 per cent, and qualifying the prediction with in the next few weeks." Cattle prices in Chicaco jumped four dollars per hundred pounds, to hif a new all-time high.

One charlotte restaurant celebrated its new freedom with a 10 per cent price increases across the menu.

In Dallas milk went up three cents a quart.

Petallers in Charlotte and claewhere.

quart.

Retailers, in Charlotte and elsewhere, hailed the death of OPA with cries of loy, but at the same time announced that they would voluntarily hold the line. The chain grocers took large ads to proclaim that there will be no advance in prices on their present inventories at least. There was no case merchants. But there was plenty of reason to question their cherrell assertion that the laws of supply and demand will "bring Americans back to their former way of life." When? And what happens in the meantline?

These price increases are the beginning, not the end. They come at the end of the

line, the last mark-up passed on to the consumer. They reflect as yet none of the additional costs the retailer, the landlord, the dairyman, and the packer will have to bear once the price of their suppliers' goods and services starts to seek its natural level.

The true infistionary spiral will not begin until the Congress makes a final decision on the OPA. The possibility of the president now serves as a tentative check on runaway prices, Many producers, distributors and retailers are admittedly waiting to see, "withholding new price schedules (and goods) until the matter is settled one way or another.

If the OPA is permitted to pass out of existence—and the odds are still long that it will, despite President Truman's fighting

it will, despite President Truman's fighting speech of Saturday night—there is no reason to believe that the most sincere efforts of private businessem to hold the line voluntarily will succeed. If Federal controls, enforced by a vast administrative organization, couldn't maintain an effective ceiling how can the passage of resolutions at a merchants' meeting be expected to? Free enterprise involves the right of every businessman to buy or produce at minimum cost and sell at maximum-profit, and it was OPA's abridgement of this right that finally doomed it. it will, despite President Truman's fighting

and it was OPA's abridgement of this right that finally doomed it.

If Congress fails to act within the next few days there will be only one question left: How bad will it be? If the lessons of the past mean anything the very best we can hope for is a brief period of wild inflation followed by a. short, sharp depression. After that we shall attain, at last, normalcy, with the usual narrow proft margins, limited production, continuing unemployment and political unrest; we shall be back where we were in, say, 1934 except that we shall have acquired in the interim the most stupepodous national debt in history. The American system, we always thought, involved a little more than the freedom to boom and bust.

BUSO RECOM CARRIES

Torchlight Parade

HERBIOCK

People's Platform

Makeshift On The Yadkin?

Editors, The News:

PREYBOLD, Major General, Chief of Engineers
U. S. Arriw, says:

"I find that the comprehensive plan as recommended by the Board provides for optimum developments by the Board provides of the Yadikin basin.
I. recommend that the report of the division engineer be adopted as the basis for improvement step by step, of Yadikin-Pee Dee River and tributaries for flood control, navigation, and other Suprosess, and that the Wilkesboro project be authorized for each of 1818-840-000 for construction and 602,000.00 annually for operation and maintenance.

The Federal Power Commission, Washington, D.
C. May 17, 1944) says:

"The Board of Engineers for Rivers and Harbors

"The Board of Engineers for Rivers and Harbors

The Sederal Fower Commission, Washington, D. C. (May VI, 1944) says:

"The Board of Engineers for Rivers and Harbors concurs in general with the division engineer that the Sederal Commission of the Wilkenborn, Junction, Tockertown, Crump's Ford, Creater Bleweit, and Moven dam and reservoir projects for flood control, power, and other benefities in purposes, including benefits to navigation, at an estimated aggregate cost of \$102,300,000.00. In addition to this cost the Board estimate the cost of transmission facilities at \$32,000.00 (Inc.) and the sederal cost of the sederal cost

ation and other uses..."

"The Board recommends the construction of the Wilkeaboro project for flood and power as an initial step at an estimated cost of \$10,840,0000 which includes \$440,000 for transmission of facilities.

"Benefits to existing hydroelectric projects constitutes a substantial part of the justification for the projects recommended."

In view of the above why has the U, S. Senate Commerce Committee recommended four DINY DAMS—respected by Heillier God nor man—at a total cost of only \$31,94,000 publishing recommended.

of only \$7,194,000?

Compare this makeshift proposed for the Yackin Ritery with what has been done on the Columbia River for the States of Washington and Oregon and you will understand why there is little hope of North Carolina rising to the Economic Level of the Ore More than the Carolina rising to the Economic Level of the Ore historial hour of excitacion energy equals 10 hours of human muscular energy. Just think what 930,800,000 kilowatt hour on enually will mean to the Yackin Valley.

-JOHN W. CLARK.

Will Says

CHARLOTTE

Editors. The News:

[PMIS comment by the late Will Rogers, written a good many years ago, acems most pertinent today:

"Mr. Hoover is becoming a typical American President by becoming disgusted with the Senate early in his administration. Distrust of the Senate early presidents started with Washington, who wanted to have them court-martialed.

The Box Score

WASHINGTON
THE Associated Press report on how North and
Carolina members of the Congress were recorded,
as voting on recent roll calls:
THE SENATE.

THE SERATE:

THE S

THE HOUSE:

On motion to shelve bill providing for a business census every five years, agreed to 167 to 161; all against except. Bonner 'N-NC', Kerr 'iD-NC), Clark (ID-NC) and Rivers (ID-SC), all of whom recorded as not voting.

not voting.

On compromise bill extending Selective Service to March 31, 1947, but prohibiting induction of eighteen-year-olds, passed 259 to 110; all for except Barden iD-NO), and Doughton (D-NO), all of whom voted against and Kerr, not recorded.

against and Kerr, not recorded.

On motion of Rep. Rilety (R-Okia) to send OPA extension bill back to committee with instructions to provide for removal of price controls from livestock, poultry and dairy products; rejected 221 to 180; Barden, Cooley (D-NC), Ervin (D-NC). Rivers and Mc-Millan (D-SC), for; all others against except Kerr, not recorded.

not recorded.

Description of the control of the co

Britain Comes Back

Marquis Childs

is a messure of British success after World War II.

Of course, there's still a big gap to be filled before exports equal imports. The total of imports for May was \$65,000.000. The beautiful of the beginning over since the days when America's mass production industry first began sending goods into the world's market, import to eat. That is the rub. The fact that the gap between imports and exports is so small, comparatively speaking, it because the British people are will because the British people are will be the state of the state

SELF-DISCIPLINE

ing the war.

SELF-DISCIPLINE

What we are seeing today is an extraordinary example of self-discipline. As a disciplined people, the complex of the complex

TRANSITION DIFFICULT

and contuions.

TEANSTITON DIFFICULT.

A great many things can be sald against the Pax Britishnica that the British maintained for fearly account of the party of

POOR RECORD

If we are to take responsibility in the probability of th

Samuel Grafton

Making Ends Meet

CONGRESS NEEDS RAISE

of public officials."

CONORESS NEEDS RAISE

By a coincidence, Congress, whose
members also receive silon00 per
members also receive silon00 per
ward pushing the figure to \$15,
000: It no longer fears public criticism; or radio come's bloker.

These little indications are initeresting because they are signs of
distross in the middle class, the
upper middle class, if you
distross in the middle class, the
upper middle class, if you
distross in the middle class, the
upper middle class, if you
show the first manifestations
of that genteel poverty which is
mark of inflationary period.

by Senator Moore, Republican, of
Oklahoma, in which the denounces
price control as being in effect, as
muniam, but inflation, which
threatens to wipe out the middle
class, and, in listening to Mr.
shivery sense of high drama, a feeling that once again men are beling that once again men for the
threatens to wipe out the middle
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CLEARER PICTURE

And If we drop down below the level of the upper middle class, we see that the level of the upper middle class, we see that the level of the upper middle class, we conservative opinion may have done to itself by its self-destructive lunging toward higher prices. Most prophects of a coming boom are been desired to the level of the level o

Drew Pearson's: Bilbo's Race-Hate Appeal May Save Him

SHUT your eyes for a moment as you listen to the aweat-ling, gyrating, Iuliminating figure shouting before you. You would almost swear that it was the late Kingish of Louisiana, Instead it is the Kingfish of Mississippi, Theo-dore Bilbo, and he is righting for his life.

Whether in the United States Senate or in the Delta Country of Mississippi, Bilbo is the same. The vote is rasping and tired he looks often, and is older. But the vigor gard the state of the state of

Seed one back to the Senate," he shouts, "and I'll see to it that Southern womanhood is safe. I'll protect your homes from the invasion of Northern Communists and Niggers. I'll..."

The volce rasps on.

This is the third time in twelve years Bilbo has stumped the state of Mississipis, pulling out the same stops on his was-organ volce, and today will decide whether the electorate of the position of the same of the state of Mississipis, and the same of the same

Nigger" invasion.

Bilbo may squeak through in today's primaries, and if be does this will be what saved him.

Mississippi Merry-Go-Round

Mississippi Merry-Go-Round

ABLEST BILBO opponent is ex-Congressman Ross Collins, the man who did most to build up the Army in peacetime... Collins, a member of the War Department Appearance of the War Department of the Indiana Collins also induced the Army to buy the Christia Indiana Collins also induced the Army to buy the Christia Indiana Collins also induced the Army to buy the Christia Indiana Collins also induced the Army to buy the Christia Indiana Collins and Ind

'Gentleman From Mississippi'

Gentleman From Mississippi'
TWERTS never a dull moment in the life of "The Man"
Bilbo... He once served a jail sentence for contempt
of court when Judge Erwin R. Hoimes ordered him to teality
in the case involving his old political enemy, Governor Rusedl... Elibo was sinc at by a featous and rask and
eli... Silbo was sinc at by a featous and rask with
him the devenor's desk. Some say it was Mrs. Bilbo
others that it was a filled socretary... Mrs. Bilbo long ago
of woodrow Wilson, Thailby persuaded her to avoid an unpleasant divorce suit and accept a settlement of \$30,000...
Bilbo kissed off a prosecution against him for embessement
some years ago as follows: "The presecutor said it was guilty,
seme of the witnesses said I was guilty, but the Juty, but the

and girk, said I was innocent." This albit was during his right camping nor the Senate in 1934. He was elected, where Bibb first campe to Washington he boasted that he had used the Civilian Conservation Corps to lay out a golf course on his farm. "Mighty convenient, I can tell you," he bragged to friends.

Truman's In-Laws

bert Hoover was extremely camera-shy, raised cain, when photographes tried to get close-ups. Mrs. Hoover even insisted upon censoring photographs before they were published.

The property of the property of

more, living and acting under the American system of free enterprise." Well, we have arisen, and we are free. How does the American system look?

Another Plea For Action

THERE are signs now that the Governor's Emergency Committee is coming to Emergency Committee is coming to grips with some of the immediate prob-lems of veterans' education. Speeding up the registration of veterans who desire college training is a step in the right di-rection for it indicates the Committee's understanding that its opportunity for

anderstanding that its opportunity for service is fleeting.

But beyond the immediate problem—the establishment of emergency one-year col-leges to take care of the overflow from regular institutions—there lies the matter of physical expansion of state institutions themselves. This too must be tackled now, for the emergency "colleges" provide only

or the emergency conteges provide only a one-year reprieve. Controller William D. Carmichael of the University of North Carolina, reporting to the Governor and the Trustees, estimated that "within the next few years shere in North Carolina 30,000 veterans and 20,000 other civilians may be denied admission to North Carolina colleges and universities..." With every college in the state operating at its maximum capacity only about 30,000 students can be admitted, and already more

than 12.500 veterans have been rejected for enrollment in the Fall,

for enrollment in the Fall.

It is our conviction that plans should be made immediately to increase our atudent enparkies at the University in Chapel Hill to \$0,000 students; State College to \$0,000 students. But for the war, this expansion students, and the Woman's College to \$0,000 students. But for the war, this expansion cleayed too long. We urge the Governor and the Board of Trustees to give this matter immediate attention.

Buildings: dorutlories, classrooms, laboratories are bottlenecks to expansion. But "brick and stone 60 not a college make; a Faculty, I've bose our faculty, we have lost our University.

Mr. Carmichael believes the Federal Gov ernment should underwrite all or most of this expansion since the veterans program has precipitated the crisis. It may be a has precipitated the crisis. It may be a valid point, but it seems doubtful If immediate Federal action can be counted on. If it has to assume it it seems to us the State of North Carolina must accept this responsibility, and accept it at once. There is no room for argument with Mr. Carmichael's closing statement:

"The situation demands immediate action."

circuit-rider was scheduled to be on the bench. It seems there had been some con-

Bureau Of Missing Persons

WE fear we have bored our readers in the past with our wistful little tales of Mecklenburg Superior Court. On an average of once a month we feel constrained to remark upon the absence of defendants and witnesses, the failure of court officials to be concerned about it, and the ceneral laxity of the judicial process. Occasionally we are rewarded by a complementary blast from the bench; about hist fit witsiding jurists give public vent to their anger at the failure of inconsiderate seions to appear for trial. But yesterday there was a new twist to the old story. The court crier announced the opening of court. The usual percentage of defendants, jurymen, witnesses were present—enough at least to get started with the day's work. And then, bedad, court officials discovered they had no judge.

judge.

Moreover, nobody seemed to know which

bench. It seems there had been some con-fusion, what with juriast swapping terms back and forth in order to fit them into their vacation schedules, and somehow old Mecklenburg got lost in the shuffle. It is as difficult to conduct actival without a defendant, so Superior Court will be sus-pended, probably for a week, until a duly qualified jurist can be assigned and im-ported. ordering further state of according to the particularly in Superior Court, which functions with all the dignity and dispatch of a kindergarten where roast. And we certainly have no recommendations to offer in this-instance. You can't very well issue a captar for a missing judge, and our long experience with defandamis has demonstrated the futility of putting anybody under bond for a scheduled appearance at the Mecklenburg courthouse.

Another Voice

A Note On Common Decency

A NEWS story from Springfield, Ill., tells of the failure of a housing campaign for war veterans in these terse words: "Instigated by the Springfield AMVETS, the drive was started by the mailing of several thousand cards asking residents to notify the organization of any available homes.

"Five replies were received. One of them Twe replies were received. One of them offered the suggestion, Live in a tent."
How the Illinois community cares to deal with its housing problem is no concern of Wilmington yet all local residents here should be disturbed by the fact that any city in this country demonstrates such little interest in a problem so vital to the men that made the blessings of peace possible for all of us.

en that made the beautiful consistence of all of us.
There is little doubt that a stray pet sould be given a place to serve as a home a withington. And when some would-be

wit has the audacity to suggest that veterans in search of housing accommodation be told "To live in a tent," it becomes repulsive to all fair-minded citizens. Such callous replies as the one, received by the AMVETS in Springfield, may explain in no small measure the migration of veterans to the Southeast, which has been described as the section of America offering the greatest opportunity for the future.—Wilmington Evening Post.

Whatever became of old-fashioned mass production—remember?—that used to pro-duce needed stuff in masses? The water temperature of Maine's Range-

ley Lakes is up to 56-or very warm for June. If the body turns blue, it's a Summer visitor.