

A Dangerous Drift

WASHINGTON (AP)—A labor-management conference. About all that it produced was a series of hot and angry words. Now a group of Americans of widely differing opinions has been convened to call another labor-management conference.

Life In An Economic Colony

ONLY a week or so ago some North Carolina newspapers were crowing over the fact that a group of Philadelphians had come to Greensboro to borrow a few millions to purchase a radio station. The trend-setters thought they could detect evidence of financial emancipation here, a relaxing of the hold of Wall Street over the South.

Government. A corporation the size of the new J. P. Stevens and Company makes us uneasy, and the fact that its nerve center is outside the region increases our apprehensions. We keep thinking of the Philadelphians Ben Tillman's figure of speech—the gigantic cow grazing over the South while her udder hung suspended over Wall Street where the bankers happily drained off the cream.

The biggest textile deal in history finally announced this week, knocks that wishful thinking into a cocked hat. J. P. Stevens and Company of New York will shortly assume operating control of 28 manufacturing plants, including some of the biggest in the Carolinas.

There have been many changes since old Ben Tillman fixed his one good eye on the United States Senate and launched into his blistering attack on the interests. Perhaps the inhuman qualities he charged to the Wall Streeters have disappeared, at least they are not readily apparent.

Are Buyers Free To Strike?

THE wishful talk of a buyer's strike to bring a halt to rising prices is comforting, perhaps, but it is also a measure of the consumer's desperation. It is clear now, or should be, that effective Federal control of prices is over and done with. Whatever form OPA extension finally takes, when President Truman and Congress reach their compromise, it is too late now to roll prices back without hurting the national economy completely out of gear.

But self-interest also dictates the freezing out of competition. Ultimately, independent Southern cotton processors, whose ranks are thinning rapidly, will be adversely affected by this, as well as past and forthcoming mergers. A lot of things, most of them unpleasant, happen to non-integrated weaving and knitting mills when integration absorbs their suppliers, trade channels, and markets.

Perhaps we are unnecessarily raising old ghosts in the face of progress. We hope so. Certainly we shall be the first to rejoice if the Stevens merger turns out to be an unmitigated blessing for the South, even though it stands as evidence that the South is fast to continue indefinitely in its role of economic colony to the nation.

It is possible that organized groups, which means, of course, labor unions, may inaugurate a sort of buyer's slowdown in certain areas. Even unorganized consumers may be able to force a reduction in the prices of a few commodities, as they appear to have done in the case of butter. But a strike implies a complete cessation of buying, a deliberate withdrawal from the market. And, effective though this may be, it is possible only in the case of luxury goods.

There is nothing good about inflation. By an amount of pious phrase-making can change the old economic fact that our impatience with Federal controls has already cost us an assured period of genuine prosperity; we threw that away in exchange for a few quick profits and an economic future as uncertain as any we have ever had. We may escape disaster; in all probability we will escape a complete economic collapse. But we're going to pay plenty before we are through; we'll be fortunate indeed if we can measure the costs only against what we might have had.

The Docket Is Current At Last

WHEN Mecklenburg Superior Court adjourned last week there were only 42 cases left on the docket. Most of these old they probably never be brought to trial. The docket was in the best shape it has been in in the memory of the oldest Court official; for all practical purposes it was current.

This is one way to bring the national economy back into balance, apparently the method preferred by our representatives in Washington, and unless they have completely lost their grip on the public pulse, by a majority of the American people. But it is certainly the hard way to do it, the most expensive method that could possibly have been devised.

Only one like Carmen Miranda, who makes \$201,458 a year, could afford an old-fashioned boiled dinner for a hat. Political opponents see Republican campaign funds improved, thanks to Gen. Apatohy. We had hoped the man on horseback could be kept out of this.

One hopes the caddy who accidentally kicked Byron Nelson's ball and cost him the title is kept well away from the atomic bomb and custody thereof. A writer on economics says only half a dozen men in the world understand money. We begin looking tomorrow for one who can fathom butter.

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People's Platform Knocked For A Loop

WELL, it kind of knocked me for a loop when I saw in The News about our boys returning from service and saying 'they couldn't work for \$20 a week'. I wonder if they didn't work for less before the war. All of the jobs where I work pay more than that.

who has put us in this awful mess. F. D. Roosevelt himself. Yes, we are in a wilderness, the wilderness that Mr. Roosevelt wanted us in, and the mess, the wilderness that Mr. Truman, and those Super-Bureaucrats have not the wherewithal to get us out. We maybe do not want to get us out. That is more like it.

Mr. Satisfied Editor, THE NEWS: PLEASE give me space enough in your fine paper to hammer the good old American way...

UNFIT CHARACTER Editor, THE NEWS: READ in THE NEWS of the 17th of a notice from Mr. Smith to the Federal Police...

Mr. Satisfied Editor, THE NEWS: PLEASE give me space enough in your fine paper to hammer the good old American way...

YOU PAY YOUR MONEY... Editor, THE NEWS: RECENTLY a fellow was complaining to me about how high prices had skyrocketed...

Dr ev Pearson's Tire Company Got E Award After Fraud

WASHINGTON (AP)—The Mead Committee, which has done such an excellent job of pinning Congressmen's names on them, might do little further digging into phony E-awards and possible connections with the Kentuckian who still chairs the House Military Affairs Committee.

Truman's support backfires OILD-land Democrats in Jackson County, Mo., are dead certain that President Truman's public endorsement of Enos Artell coupled with CIO-PAC support has virtually assured the nomination of Kansas City's Roger C. Slaughter in the Missouri primary August 6.

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