

### A Beautiful Friendship, He Says

HARRY TRUMAN, after months of "drooping" from his own party, and feeling the stern hand of the newly-irrepressible Republicans, came out smiling, with the air of a man who had been deceived by the inevitable and was determined to enjoy the fruits of the New Deal. He had hoped for the Republican rulers of Congress had done a fact, he said. He went on to enumerate the joys of wedlock, saying that the new bi-partisan harmony was so sweet and complimentary that he had hoped for the Congress, adding that he had a big job waiting for a Republican lady just to show his heart was in the right place.

Yes, co-operation was so good that the remnants of Administration power were completely overthrown. The President was speaking blandly of co-operation just a few hours after Republican Senators had easily beaten back a Democratic attempt to file further investigation of war profiteers and the like. But that fight, said Mr. Truman, didn't count and didn't mark the new day of co-operation; that was a Congressional fight, pure and simple.

While the President was talking the Democrats had juried the Ways & Means Committee upside down. They barred Democrats from their hearings on

reciprocal trade, and with their raucous cries about free trade and world peace drowned out, made traditional high-tariff Republican talk. It was co-operation in deed.

Democracy in the Senate had fought in vain to halt war probes, at the moment when Andrew Jackson May and the Garsons were indicted for fraud—and there was a to-do in the House over a certain shortage of House funds. Mr. May's book, but the nation had a picture of an Administration flat on its back, and barely kicking, while the Republican insurgents trampled over it.

We're as ready to go along with bi-partisan accord, domestic or foreign variety, as the next one, and if Mr. Truman wants to chat cozily about the new coalition at his press conference, all right. We'll be equally impressed if Mr. Truman would, by Senator Churchill declared to Parliament that the co-operation of the Labor Party with the Tories was perfect, just perfect.

### A Tremulous Rebuttal

FOR a month of noisy Christmas celebrations some 750 North Carolinians were seriously injured by firecrackers, reaching nearly 251 doctors, out of the state's 2,300-odd. Among them were a number of infants involving loss of eyes and hands. It was the first time the state had been told anything about the holiday toy by firecrackers, and it put the fireworks lobby in a hole for the first time.

The survey apparently helped to produce bills for the control of the explosives, for no less than three of them were kicking around in an effort to substitute a bill of the Senate, where fireworks manufacture is more popular among the small fry. This bill was backed by all fireworks manufacturers and dealers on hand at the hearing—and they were numerous.

The picture of the Tar Heel fireworks industry which emerged in the test was one of confusion at odds with protestations of manufacturers that they wanted to do everything possible to bar dangerous pyrotechnics.

### All Talk And No Vote

THE City Council's concern over the division of liquor profits, if and when Mecklenburg establishes ABC stores, is understandable. We need to know not only how profits shall be split, but also for what purposes the money is estimated to run up to \$1,000,000 a year shall be spent. But provisions for handling the money, once we get it, are fairly simple. The wet Eastern counties have a number of stores which are open to the question of liquor control itself. All question of community rights aside, the job now is to make the decision on liquor.

That question arises not only in private conversation all over the County, in formal hearing, but also in the chambers of City Council and County Commission. It comes up daily in the police courts, where Mecklenburg continues to pile up a record of public drunkenness dwarfing anything else the state has seen. It bids

up in murder cases. It appears in the local liquor mill, where case after case is traced back to liquor marriages.

The coming of ABC stores will not cure the community of drunkenness, nor slash the divorce rate, nor bring an end to murder and violence. But the face of our present system, obvious to everyone who looks at it without bias, should be brought to an end. Various police officials, disgusted with the endless stream of crimes caused by liquor, and by our winking at the half-way means of legal prohibition, have spoken for a change. Most of them, looking at improved conditions in the East and ABC rule, favor legal stores. Others say only that we must either legalize liquor stores, or actually try to enforce prohibition laws.

City Council seems to expect a liquor referendum this year, and certainly the County is full of talk. But until some body of citizens takes the step of circulating a petition and calling for a new election, the County Commission, the County Commissioners, who know a hot potato when they see it, won't be forced into leadership. They await the mandate prescribed by law, and until they hear it from the people there'll be nothing done.

### Another Voice

CIRCULATION of petitions for a liquor store referendum in Rowan County is finally under way.

Enthusiasts who have taken the lead in this movement may find that their initial petitions which have already accumulated a large number of signatures, may have to be withdrawn in favor of a differently worded petition to provide for the best interests of all concerned; but now that the ice has been broken, there should be little difficulty about that.

Pending developments, and past experience in such matters indicates that they must be withdrawn in favor of a differently worded petition to provide for the best interests of all concerned; but now that the ice has been broken, there should be little difficulty about that.

When legal control is gained, the people of Rowan should demand that it be the best possible. The County Commission, the natural improvement over present conditions which almost any kind of control would bring, but the absolutely, unquestioned, most consistent, and best organized control possible.

As a matter of confidence, it might be noted that Andrew J. Volstead died yesterday at Granite Falls, Minn.

### On Legal Liquor

has long since established the desirability of government-controlled sale as against prohibition under any conditions.

Under ideal conditions of governmentally controlled sale of beverage alcohol where strict supervision is entrusted to county health and safety officials, the natural public confidence, liquor reaches its minimum level of menace both to the individual and to the civic and social structure.

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### Bertram Benedict

## The Parties And World Trade

SENATOR VANDENBERG, who speaks authoritatively on Republican foreign policy, has warned the Administration to go slowly on new reciprocal trade agreements. The chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee didn't say that his party opposed the reciprocity program. He did say that the State Department must make sure that the party wouldn't be hampered by bilateral agreements between other countries or by Government trade monopolies abroad and he insisted that reciprocity must be a two-way street.

The State Department is holding hearings on new reciprocal agreements contemplated with eighteen countries. The hearings will probably run over into February. In the past, six or eight weeks have been needed to digest the data, and the average, actually to consummate an agreement.

The 1945 act extending the reciprocity authority until June 12, 1948, allows import duties to be cut by an additional 50 per cent of the rates existing on Jan. 1, 1945. Congress of course could always terminate the authority, or to change certain rates (such legislation would be subject to a Presidential veto); otherwise Congress has nothing to say about executive fixing of rates under the limitations set in the Reciprocal Trade Act.

The present willingness of the Republicans to go along, albeit grudgingly, with the reciprocity program shows something of a change of heart. Republicans in Congress voted almost solidly against the original reciprocal trade act of 1940, and against its three-year extension in 1937 and again in 1940. Little Republican opposition existed to the two-way street agreement that was because the Republicans agreed that to change the nation's tariff policy in one way might involve a change in the other. Little use was made of the reciprocal tariff authority while the United States was at war.

The 1936 Republican platform pledged the repeal of the reciprocal trade act, and the 1940 Republican platform did not promise repeal, but made no adequate hearings and with undue haste. In 1944 the GOP platform committed the President to impose certain duties, agreements subject to approval by Congress. Although more than 80 per cent of the Republican platform voted for the repeal of the act, the party's platform did not promise repeal, but made no adequate hearings and with undue haste. In 1944 the GOP platform committed the President to impose certain duties, agreements subject to approval by Congress. Although more than 80 per cent of the Republican platform voted for the repeal of the act, the party's platform did not promise repeal, but made no adequate hearings and with undue haste.

There was a time when tariff reciprocity was a Republican idea. The McKinley Tariff Act of 1890 authorized the President to impose certain duties, agreements subject to approval by Congress. Although more than 80 per cent of the Republican platform voted for the repeal of the act, the party's platform did not promise repeal, but made no adequate hearings and with undue haste. In 1944 the GOP platform committed the President to impose certain duties, agreements subject to approval by Congress. Although more than 80 per cent of the Republican platform voted for the repeal of the act, the party's platform did not promise repeal, but made no adequate hearings and with undue haste.

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ROBERT J. SUTTIE, Director, Charlotte Youth for Christ.

### Washington

ONE of the most interesting features in the Truman Administration is Secretary of Commerce W. Averell Harriman. He represents that curious phenomenon of American life—the liberal in politics. As wealth is said in the history of the New Deal, and the NRA. The railroads were the business of the New Deal. In the past it has often proved a barrier to political advancement.

In his service abroad and in the White House, Harriman developed a sincere interest in many of Roosevelt's objectives. He has been of himself as a liberal. Thus, for example, he has an honored guest in the present dining room of the White House who later formed the new organization, Americans for Democratic Action.

Yet at the same time he possesses one of the largest, private fortunes in America. Who? Who has him as a partner in Brown Brothers, Harriman & Co., one of the most powerful private banking groups in Wall Street. The major family interest in the railroads since 1921, Harriman has been chairman of the board of the Union Pacific.

Because of his railroad connections, he has been sniped at recently from the left. The National Farmers Union, pointed out that Harriman owned the railroads and the people who set up the Western rate agreement which the anti-trust division had to handle. Harriman has been taken as the basis of a suit against the men involved.

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### Samuel Grafton

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### Drew Pearson's Admirals, Like Women, Can Change Minds

CONGRESS really wants to cut the budget, the operations on Capitol Hill might scrutinize certain naval operations going on almost under their noses in Southern Maryland.

Just half a mile on the other side of Solomon's, the Navy also operated another important establishment.

Came the end of the war and last August, the Navy decided to abandon the mine test base but continue the ordnance development center in the permanent operation. So it started to tear down buildings, clear land and to construct permanent officers' quarters for the ordnance center.

Then two months later the Navy changed its mind. In October, it decided to reverse the process and make the mine test center permanent, abandoning the ordnance development center.

Accordingly, the Navy signed a contract with the Burns Construction Co., which proceeded to move 20 Quonset huts, previously erected at the ordnance development center, over to the mine test base. The Burns Co. also started construction of permanent new homes for Navy personnel, poured concrete and floor in the indirect heating systems, and erected steel framework for prefabrication.

### Senator Soaper Says:

A LURCH toward normalcy is seen in the used-car market, where prices in some sections have tumbled from the preposterous to the merely bizarre.

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The way out in the old problem of dividing five apples among nine persons was appraised by a dozen GOP Senators in a few choice committee plums call for deeper cogitation.

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### Capital Chaff

GEORGE B. BARRETT of Kentucky the other day to compliment him on his new masterpiece. "How do the ladies take it?" he asked. "Like a rabid dog," he replied.

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### Merry-Go-Round

CIVILIAN Secretaries of State who for years have ridden in ordinary Pullmans are wondering how come the military grade use of private railroad cars in Chicago to Washington.

General Eisenhower also seems to have a private car. Returning from Florida, he was seen in a private train. "You have made a great mistake," fumed McKellar. "It is too late to mend?" Of course you know that the military grade use of private railroad cars in Chicago to Washington.

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