

Shutdown In The 'Cold War'

I WILL seek to avoid statements for mere popular or propaganda effect, no matter what the provocation.

Mr. Marshall has availed "mere popular or propaganda" utterances all along...

The outcome of this struggle may be decided in the matter of the pace of the world will hang in the balance during this critical time.

Bell's Case For A Rate Hike

CHARLOTTE has called for a full explanation of the reasons for the rate increase sought by Southern Bell Telephone Co. and that is what it is getting now.

City Council is weighing the statement submitted yesterday by the company which answers all the questions that have been raised since this issue was brought to the attention by the hearing last week.

Reading the company's statement, these points stand out:

First, Charlotte's residence telephone subscribers are asked to pay 50 cents more a month for expanded and more efficient service under a five-year \$40 million improvement program in North Carolina.

Why is the increase higher for Charlotte than other cities in the state? Because Charlotte has more telephone lines, which means that subscribers get more service, and because equipment and operating costs per unit go up as the service expands.

Senator Taft And Donald Duck

SENATOR ROBERT A. TAFT'S fury over the Truman program to check inflation reminds us of Andrei Vishinsky's frenzy over Secretary Marshall's program to check the Soviet economy in the United Nations, which in turn has reminded us of nothing so much as Donald Duck in one of his lowering rages.

Mr. Taft's outraged cries that Mr. Truman's proposals represent "reaction," "a step toward a completely totalitarian nation," "the end of economic freedom" and an effort to "turn the clock backwards" bear about as much relationship to the facts as Comrade Vishinsky's charges that the Americans are attempting to substitute on Imperialist domination of the world and destruction of Russia. They are as extravagant as Donald Duck's notions of his own strength and of the way the world ought to be run.

The Taft excitement in this case attains a new pitch for the good reason that he has lost several important points in his contest with the man in the White House since they had their last tussle in the 80th Congress last year. It is clear that Mr. Truman isn't going to get everything he asks for at the extra session—not by a long way. At the same time it is apparent that the Administration is going to get much more than the chairman of the Senate Republican Policy Committee wants to give.

The Ohioan-who-wants-to-be-President in '48 has shown in many ways that he regards a 10 or 20 m. per cent increase in control with distaste and has no heart for financial spending, but already we find him conceding that considerable financial assistance must be given and admitting that Congress probably will approve credit and export

the Cominform. It is also a positive assurance to the Kremlin that the United States is prepared for any eventuality, which could mean military intervention in Western Europe or even war with Russia.

The two blinking facts that the French and Italian situations are touch-and-go and we may see violent incidents in the days ahead.

The Russians still have military forces in Austria and Germany but the time will come for their retreat from those occupied countries if the Communists cannot hold their own in Western Europe.

Secretary Marshall apparently is proceeding in confidence that the democratic forces will be able to ride out the present storm. If democratic France and Italy do survive this crisis, the Communists will have shot their last big bolt in the "cold war" campaign.

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How much will the increase return on the investment? Estimated gross annual income of \$63,000.

How much did Bell get annually from the hike on business classifications? After taxes, \$238,000.

Is the new rate allowed, Bell's annual net earnings will be 4.95 per cent, more than the 4.5 per cent proposed.

Are there any other questions? City Council will provide the answer to that. If the City government finds the facts and figures are as represented in the company's statement—and finds that no points have been overlooked—the conclusion obviously must be that Bell does face a bright future.

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