THE CHARLOTTE NEWS

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Prices, Taxes And Recovery

PRESIDENT TRUMAN'S message on the long-range Marshall Plan for European recovery sheds illumination on the Administration price and tax policies. His conservative estimate that the program will cost America $17 billion over a four-year period is based on the calculation that inflation will be contained at or near its present high level and slowly taper off. It is a picture that makes inflation control the key to the success of this gigantic venture.

If any further proof were needed that this nation should take no unnecessary risks and refuse to use no device that promises to set the brakes on inflation, this huge reconstruction bill provides it. It gives added weight to the President's contention that the Federal surplus should be used to reduce the public debt and maintain adequate reserves before there is a tax reduction. Reduction of the debt, which would tighten credit and reduce the money supply, is an anti-inflationary step. On the other hand, an income tax slash of the size and character proposed by the Republicans would increase consumer buying power and thus have an inflationary effect.

The price spiral is adding daily to the costs of this undertaking. Attention is directed to that fact by the President's message, which points out that American prices have risen 7 1/2 per cent since last July, when the talks began with the foreign nations participating in this plan. Wheat has climbed 20 per cent, oil 30 per cent. If inflation continues unchecked at that rate, it will boost the total recovery cost to a point where the whole program is endangered.

Shipments from the Western Hemisphere over the four-year period are estimated at $35,900,000,000 in value and $19,300,000,000 of that would come from the United States. The strain which that would place on our economy is only partly suggested by these big figures. The chance for further inflationary disturbance shows up in the statement of commitments on commodities for which the demand in both this country and Europe exceeds the supply.

How this complicated task of making short supply stretch to the vital points can be managed without setting up domestic control machinery that is co-ordinated with the European program is a question that no one has answered.

It is a misnomer to call this the European Recovery Program. It is the Western world's program for survival, its plan to win a "cold war" against Communism and a world war against economic breakdown. The President's message is a call to meet a national crisis with no half-measures.

Tobacco To Fight For America

THE American cigarette may become one of the potent weapons in the ideological, political and economic battle for Germany which is shaping up between the Western Allies and Soviet Russia. A plan that would make the German smokers work effectively for the democratic cause, and at the same time improve the economic situation in the United States, is now before Congress. It was advanced this week before the Senate Appropriations Committee by North Carolina's Senator William B. Umstead.

Senator Umstead proposed that the Committee make available to Germany at least 100,000,000 pounds of tobacco now held by the Commodity Credit Corporation for the use of the German tobacco industry in the production of tobacco products. This would be approximately one year's supply and it represents less than a fifth of the surplus tobacco which the CCC will have on hand at the end of this marketing season. Release of the 100,000,000 pounds to Germany would make it possible to break the black market in cigarettes which has been a vicious feature of the German inflation.

The Umstead facts and figures make an impressive case for the German tobacco relief plan as both good business and good politics. The big hand-out to Germany would dispose of a substantial part of America's surplus tobacco now on hand, relieving pressure on prices and tending to relieve the necessity of severe cuts in marketing quotas. It would preserve a tremendous market for American tobacco and tobacco products. It would re-establish the tobacco industry in Germany and contribute toward that country's economic rehabilitation. Finally, American tobacco would improve the morale of the German people and enhance their opinion of America and Americans.

In this operation, the American Government would be acting to protect the already sizable financial investment it has tied up in tobacco. Under the price parity-support program, it loaned $85,836,549 on the 1946 crop and will lend an estimated $127,000,000 on the 1947 crop. Declining export trade has forced the Government to go into the market to support the price at 90 per cent of parity. It compels the Government to cut the acreage for balanced production, reducing the income of about 750,000 farm families in twenty-one states.

Effects of the slump in the American tobacco market are felt throughout our economy and show up in increased costs of Government and taxes. Congress should welcome a way to reduce the size of the depressing surplus, particularly when it offers as many advantages as the Umstead proposal. The gift to Germany is only a partial answer to the problem, but it is the kind of relief that pays dividends and it illustrates how much our welfare depends on emergency action to restore Europe's economy and revive world trade.

'Marshall Plan' For South?

A GROUP of economists and Government experts includes a $27.6 billion Federal investment program for the South among its recommendations in an exhaustive report to the House Agriculture Committee.

Dubbed by Drew Pearson as a "Marshall Plan" to get the Southern states on their feet, the program envisions an eight-point attack on the region's economic maladies: (1) loan insurance for small business; (2) business research; (3) an equitable transportation policy; (4) elimination of monopolistic practices restricting Southern production; (5) elimination of interstate trade barriers and restrictions; (6) opening of war surplus plants to small business; (7) minimum standards of welfare and wage agreements; and (8) a Federally-financed investment program to encourage industrial expansion, maintain and improve human and natural resources, and moderate fluctuations in the level of economic activity.

The factors causing the South's economic problem and methods for alleviating it are, of course, fairly well defined by now, and the Agriculture Committee report is a welcome addition to a growing body of literature on the subject. However, the Committee proposal reflects the erroneous assumption of many economists and sociologists that outright Federal investment will be a panacea.

It is well within the province of the Government to eliminate "monopolistic practices" which delay Southern industrial expansion through its Anti-Trust Division, and to promote an "equitable transportation policy" through the Interstate Commerce Commission, for example, but the wisdom of the investment phase of the projected cure-all may well be questioned.

A Federal investment of billions of dollars would create additional burdens of taxation, and would accentuate a trend toward centralization of control which is already much too pronounced. The South has a problem but it is not in the emergency class with Europe where it requires a "Marshall Plan." If the South will but accept the challenge to its ingenuity and enterprise presented by statistical evidences of its poverty, and will utilize the latent human and natural resources at its disposal, there will be no necessity for dispatching incessant requests for financial aid to Washington.

From The Carolina Israelite

Days Of December

WE ARE living in the midst of December days. What a spirit there is in the land! The spirit of fellowship and good-will, of willing sacrifices and earnest co-operation. Everywhere man's eagerness to comfort and to console, to share and help, to live and help live. Empty stocking funds, canteen parties, Big Brothers' projects, March of Dimes campaigns, thoughts of mercy, acts of kindness—men everywhere are tireless in their efforts to be good and noble and holy. Oh, to make these days of December less rare; to make every day, every month as the days of December—for man, throughout the year, to have the thoughts of this season, to have these dreams and aspirations, these ethical impulses and noble strivings. And there would be no need for conferences and documents, no need for sociological studies and economic treatises.

If man but made the way of love and righteousness, the path of mercy and love—the pattern of December—his way of life!

After all else is said and done, the new order for the world of freedom and of joy is found not in conference or in documents but in the heart of man and in his conscience. For no international organization will outlaw evil and no federation of nations can banish war and hatred—unless mankind desires it. There is no method of enforcing love—and who wou'd want that type of love. There is no plan to demand mercy—and who could accept it? Let man outlaw the evil from his heart and the thoughts of ugliness from his mind—that is the only permanent and effective plan. Neither a police force nor punishment makes for goodness and for beauty, but the impulses in man's human nature, the promptings of his conscience, the spiritual joy in his heart. And that is our program —to make our life an eternal December—days of thanksgiving and gratitude, holiness and beauty.

We rejoice with our fellowmen for the spirit that is this season's, this symbol of brotherhood, of religious devotion. We thrill at the sight of goodness and the little remembered acts of kindness and of love—the care for the unfortunate, the sharing of life's blessings, the comradeship, the spiritual sanctification of human life. A religious experience, unparalleled—these days of December — the pattern for the kind of world we should have and can have.

That is what December means. O Lord, may the years of our life be days of December!—*Rabbi Philip Frankel, Temple Bethel, Charlotte.*

Back Home—A Huge Success

Barnet Nover

Russia Runs A Risk

(NOTE — While Marquis Childs, Washington columnist, is on vacation, Barnet Nover, widely - known Capital correspondent, is pinch-hitting for him.—Editors, The News.)

* * *

WASHINGTON

THE important thing about the latest — and it may be the last —session of the Council of Foreign Ministers is not that it failed but why it failed.

The developments leading up to the complete smash-up of the conference are too well known to require elaboration.

From beginning to end, Russia and the Western Powers found themselves in complete opposition on all matters of major significance.

They were miles apart on the subject of the American settlement, on the future of the Saar, on the problem of Germany's eastern border, on the question of the sharing of the financial burdens created by the occupation of Germany, above and beyond all on the Russian demand for $10,000,000,000 in reparations to be paid out of current German production.

As long as there was the slightest hope of making any progress in the direction of a German and an Austrian settlement, the Western Powers were willing to keep the conference going. After three weeks of futile discussions they decided no such hope existed.

By that time, too, they had become sick and tired of hearing Vlacheslav Molotov repeat over and over again the same impossible demands, the same crude propaganda, the same obvious distortions and perversions of the truth that Soviet spokesmen have been indulging in against the Western Powers for some time.

THE KREMLIN'S COURSE

The mystery is why Molotov — or rather the Kremlin from which he gets his orders—persisted in this truculent and uncompromising course. Of course certain to widen the gulf between Russia and the West.

If the Kremlin's objective was to drive a wedge between France and the Anglo-Saxon powers or between Great Britain and the United States, Molotov's tactics must be written down as a complete failure.

They had the exactly opposite effect. The three Western powers are now closer together than ever have been before, particularly on the subject of what should be done about Germany.

If Molotov's purpose was to intimidate those powers into making concessions to the Soviet Union, it is obvious that it had no such result.

Messrs. Marshall, Bevin and Bidault never budged an inch in the face of the Russian Foreign Minister's insults and accusations.

The law of diminishing returns has begun to operate in the matter of Russia's threats. This is borne out not only by the course of the negotiations at London but also by what happened in France and Italy.

Significant signs of resistance to Russia's tactics of intimidation even have begun to appear in countries behind the iron curtain, notably Poland and Czechoslovakia.

Certainly, the failure to get any kind of an agreement at London will not ease the economic stresses and strains in the Soviet Union by increasing the volume of reparations from Germany.

SIGN OF WEAKNESS

The drastic devaluation of the Russian ruble, which the Soviet Government has just carried out, is a sign of political strength—only a powerful regime completely master of the situation at home could have carried it out—but also of economic weakness.

It means that Russia's recovery has, to put it mildly, not reached the point where the supply of goods produced or imported is anywhere nearly equal to the demand. If anything the extent of the ruble's devaluation indicates that the gap is very much greater in Russia than in any Western country.

It is precisely for this reason that the acquisition of reparations from all former enemy countries has been a cardinal plank in Russia's foreign policy platform since the end of the war.

As a result of her intransigence, Russia now has been thrown back further on her own inadequate resources. At the same time her political isolation is more complete than ever.

Unpleasant as this situation must be to the men in the Kremlin, the alternative appeared to them even more so. The alternative was and is a policy of economic and political collaboration with the West, the abandonment of fifth-column tactics, the lifting of the iron curtain.

To do that, however, would mean revealing to the Russian people the true state of their economic backwardness, the failures of the regime—after 30 years—to provide them even elementary necessities after promising them the moon, and giving the Russians a chance to see how other peoples live.

The very grave risks of pursuing such a course are greater than the men in the Kremlin are prepared to take. Instead, they seem determined to continue the cold war against the West, even though it means making it hotter and hotter for their own people.

Adult Education

Problem For The Community

By JAMES MARLOW
Associated Press Staff Writer

WASHINGTON

ADULT education means only that grown people, most of them after working hours, try to get more schooling or learning. This would include those who have finished their regular schooling and those who haven't. And the things they study range from a correspondence course in engineering to class work in grammar or group discussion in English literature.

The special commission which President Truman set up to study the whole problem of higher education has a good deal to say about adult education. The commission is very critical of what the colleges and universities are doing, or failing to do, about it. Why? On these grounds: that the best citizens are educated, thinking citizens and all citizens ought to get a better chance for learning than they're getting now. In a report which it issued this week the commission said in brief:

1. There's not enough adult education.

2. Colleges and universities don't seem to realize how important a part of their work adult education should be.

3. It's time they started doing more about it.

* * *

ROUGHLY, there are four kinds of adult education:

1. Evening courses in colleges and universities, on the school grounds.

2. Resident extension courses. This means teachers go out to instruct groups in homes or some meeting place off the college campus.

3. Correspondence courses, which means education by mail.

4. Informal instruction, such as a university can do over its own radio station.

But who does the teaching? Teachers who take on adult education at night to make extra money after teaching in colleges or universities by day.

How well do they do it? The commission says that "candidly" many of them try to make it as easy on themselves as possible.

The commission says:

"This state of affairs cannot be permitted to continue. The colleges and universities should elevate adult education to a position of equal importance with any other of their functions . . . .

"Adult education, along with undergraduate and graduate education, should become the responsibility of every department or college of the university.

"It should be the duty of the English faculty or the physics faculty, for instance, to teach English or physics not just to those who come to the campus but to everyone in the community or State who wants to learn or can be persuaded to learn English or physics.

"To this degree every college and university should become a 'community college.' Then extension teaching would be accounted a part of the regular teaching load and would receive its due share of faculty energy and interest."

This would mean a college or university would have to increase many times over, the job of education it is doing now.

It would mean more teachers and more money.

* * *

WHAT'S blocking all this? Says the commission:

The main block is higher education's failure to realize the role it should be playing in a democratic society, a fuller role than now.

This would mean—and it's what the commission is shooting at — that the universities would take education to the people wherever they are to be found. In this way colleges and universities would be reaching more people and therefore would be a lot more useful in their community, whether it's a City or a State.

To sum up, the commission says:

Colleges and universities are thinking far too much in terms of the boys and girls of school age who are going to colleges and universities and not enough about adult people who want, or need, more educating.

People's Platform

Challenge Of The NAM

CHARLOTTE

Editors, THE NEWS:

APPARENTLY convinced that the average American can be fooled all the time, the National Association of Manufacturers has launched a new series of nationwide ads. As Samuel Grafton pointed out, they would curb inflation by cutting taxes.

Their last campaign tried to blame the "labor monopoly" for high prices, and in spite of their phony pamphlet, "America Won't Stand for Monopolies", it failed.

The monopoly problem is today more serious and widespread than at any time since the passage of the Sherman Act of 1890. The FTC, in a report to the House Small Business Commission (Dec., 1946) said, "In the opinion of the Commission, the present, and still growing concentration of economic power in the U. S. constitutes today's greatest challenge to the American theory of competitive enterprise. . ."

The same report also charges that monopoly by big business has forced prices up, destroyed small business, suppressed inventions and patents, passed off inferior products, causes unemployment, lowers the standard of living and increases the severity of panics and depressions.

Despite the official reports which show who the monopolists really are, the false and inflammatory NAM ads are still accepted by newspapers which make labor unions seeking to advertise prove every word in their copy. As Dan Tobin of International Teamsters wrote in that union's magazine, "the NAM and its allies are in effect, subversive organizations. All they offer us is fascism, to save us from communism."

—D. M. H.

Note how many professional fighters have curly hair. They probably learned to fight when mamma made them wear the curls long—Richmond News-Leader.

Samuel Grafton

New Lost Generation

WASHINGTON

I WONDER where the expatriates of yesterday will go this time. With hopes for an enduring peace broken so badly as in 1920, there will almost certainly be another lost generation. The question is: where will it carry its suitcases, and its disillusion? The lost generation always travels. Its leading members are rarely content to remain comfortably lost at home; they like to go somewhere to be lost. They gathered in Paris from the ends of the earth in the Twenties, and Gertrude Stein arranged her words in circles, and Hemingway wrote his stories about how it was. Where this time?

I don't know whether it will be Paris again, for it is hard to repeat. As a matter of fact, a lost generation is only good for about five years. Then it is discovered by the tourists, who come to watch it being lost. The restaurants it founded are taken over by traveling college students, the art it pioneered is taken over by the advertising agencies, and it has to go lost all over again. It is hard, in a bustling society like ours, to stay lost; you have to work at it.

It could be Mexico City this time, or one of the Scandinavian capitals. Copenhagen, maybe. A really up-and-coming national tourist ministry would set out deliberately to capture the lost generation trade. It adds cultural prestige to a country to have the lost generation settle down in it, and, as I say, it brings the college boys. All you have to do is dust off a couple of quaint squares, float the appropriate word-of-mouth, and lower the exchange rate. This last is important; the lost generation is firm about getting quite a lot of native currency for its dollars.

We could, of course, ask the question of what the next lost generation will concern itself about. It can't do the one about sex all over again. The business of telescoping words together is probably washed up, too. It might turn out that the next lost generation won't even consist primarily of writers. It could, for example, be scientists. In this atomic age, you might very well discover a group of bohemian scientists, who preferred a cold test-tube in a garret to being part of official, coordinated scientific investigation.

After all, it isn't so many centuries since we had an official and an unofficial science, and your advance-guard scientist was then quite as raffish a character as your advance-guard writer is today. In the atomic age, with science once that great concern of the state, unorthodox physicists might flock to the little square in Copenhagen from many countries. One can see them now, sitting under the walls daubed with differential equations, singing their gay songs in the company of the little blonde laboratory technicians of the quarter. What if yon red-bearded character in the corner wears broken shoes, and has no money for uranium? He can knock the neutrons out of a dish of crepes suzettes, and be quite as happy.

Drew Pearson's Merry-Go-Round

Friendship Train Food Arrives In France

(Editor's Note: Drew Pearson is now in Paris and his column today takes the form of a report he is making to President Vincent Auriol of France on the food collected by the Friendship Train.)

PARIS

To the President of the French Republic,
Dear Mr. President:

I HAVE come to France because I felt I owed it to the million of Americans who contributed to the Friendship Train to report on how this food was collected and the motives behind it. I am merely acting as spokesman for many others who would like to be here but can't.

This is a difficult report to make, difficult because it is almost impossible to translate into words the feeling in men's hearts.

To begin at the beginning, the idea of the Friendship Train took root about two months ago when many Americans were perturbed that our Congress was slow and niggardly about helping our friends in Europe. So it was proposed that a train be started in California with perhaps one boxcar and, letting the plain people of the country contribute food, pick up other boxcars of food as the train moved across the continent to the Atlantic.

A committee was formed, headed by Harry Warner and including representatives of farmers, labor unions, business men and service clubs. The railroads said they would be glad to haul the train free and that was how the Friendship Train started. It was just an idea—but an idea founded on international friendship.

American Will To Give

BUT Mr. President, although I pride myself on being an accurate newspaper man, I confess that I underestimated the American will to give. Instead of one train, we ended up with seven different sections. Instead of five railroads co-operating, a total of twelve demanded the right to help and the railroad unions were equally anxious to aid their friends in Europe. Not only did most of the railroad trainmen haul the trains without salary but many railroad workers not on the line of the train mailed me checks saying they wanted to contribute, too.

Both labor and business filled up these Friendship Trains. The teamsters' union helped to load the cars; the steelworkers' union contributed money to buy carloads of canned milk; the farmers' union contributed flour.

Most of this food came from very humble people. In Hawaii, the people contributed to a total of eight cents apiece but their contribution totaled two carloads of sugar which is six European boxcars. In Wichita, Kan., the school children ran errands and saved their lunch money until they were able to purchase one carload of wheat. In Wyoming, a dentist toured most of that very mountainous and sparsely settled state until, with the help of many others, Wyoming had collected almost as much as some of the richer farm states.

The State of Nebraska is supposed to be against co-operation with Europe. At least, that's how most of its representatives vote in Congress. But we never had more enthusiastic, more generous crowds out to meet the train than those in Nebraska. In Iowa—another farm state—a group of farmers who had been to Europe traveled with the train, refuting Congressman John Taber, who said that food was not needed in Europe.

Not Government-Inspired

SOME people in France, I understand, have thought that this Friendship Train was really inspired by the American Government. However, I can tell you that about the only thing that did almost nothing to help was Washington. D. C., and it was only at the last minute that the Lions Club of Brightwood, Md., a little town on the edge of Washington, gave a carload of flour—thus paving the nation's capital from the ignominy of not participating.

I can also report that the people of Philadelphia were a little hurt that President Truman, who was in their city for a football game, did not remain the next day to see the Friend Ship, which arrived at Le Havre this week, sail from Philadelphia with its first cargo of food. However, perhaps this was for the best because this food is by and from the American people. It is from the people of America to their needy friends in Europe.

It is also important to note that President Truman's home town, Kansas City, did contribute in a big way with fourteen cars of food and one of the first telegrams I received was from Mr. Truman's home county, saying that they refused to be left out. In the end, we had to send a special train through Kansas City where President Truman's neighbors had especially stamped their bags of flour with this message:

"From Jackson County, Missouri, in the heart of America, this bag of flour comes to you with greetings and best wishes, whatever your race or nationality. May this flour be received in the same spirit in which it is sent—the brotherhood of all mankind. As the Prophet said, 'Have ye not one brotherhood, Jesus of Nazareth, commanded, 'Whatsoever ye would that men should do to you do ye unto them.'"

Jackson County, Missouri, is a typical American county. It is the home of our President, Harry S. Truman. There, as in nearly all American counties, are descendants of all races of Europe living together in peace and freedom. This brotherhood is among the blessings of our democracy. This free-will offering to help relieve your need is due to our comparative plenty and our feeling of friendship for you.

There were, of course, a few communities where we encountered opposition to the idea of contributing to the Friendship Train. In Grand Rapids, Michigan, for instance, when the newspapers criticized the train, Mayor George Welsh, who had recently been in France, urged his people to contribute—with the result that they sent three large boxcars to the train. That was the spirit of American generosity, Mr. President.

Hundreds of towns not on the line of the train telegraphed in, wanting to load up boxcars: Ventura, Burbank, Long Beach, California; Monroe, Michigan; Louisville and Hazard, Kentucky; Jersey City, New Jersey; Pottsville, Allentown and Bellefonte in Pennsylvania, a dozen cities in distant Texas and so on—it is impossible to call the roll.

Good-Will Token

IT is impossible, too, to describe to you the faces of the people who met the train at the stations along the way and, while this food is only a token and will not last France long, it is a token which has behind it the good will of millions who feel very deeply and who want to make their own small contribution toward friendship, especially at this season. They feel that Christmas is not just a day on which to exchange gifts between families and neighbors but between nations and all mankind.

So in this spirit of friendship, the American people have collected from their fields this token of food and brought it to your firesides in the hope that it may tide you over until your own fields are again rich and abundant with crops.