THE CHARLOTTE NEWS

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Statesmanship In Labor Relations

THERE will be strikes in the months ahead, of course, and some of them will probably be major ones. But the prediction that a year of labor peace has been guaranteed by the United States Steel-United Steel Workers agreement is not overly optimistic. When the largest American corporation works out an arrangement with the president of the CIO a nationwide pattern has certainly been established.

The union settled for a wage increase that will average about 15 cents an hour, bringing minimum wages in the steel industry above the forty dollar a week level. Phil Murray might have argued, with complete justice, that so moderate an increase is insufficient to offset the rising cost of living. He could claim, if he cared to, that his union members have made a personal sacrifice in the interests of stable labor relations and continued high production.

The company, on the other hand, can enter a similar claim on its own behalf. United States Steel will, President Fairless said, meet the increased labor costs provided by the new contract without raising the price of steel, which means it is voluntarily reducing profits. If the spiral is thus checked in so important a basic commodity the effect on the economy as a whole will be profound.

It is clear that both company and union recognized a joint responsibility higher than the obligation to increase the earnings of workers or stockholders. They bargained within the limits set by present profit margins, both parties accepting the fact that the final settlement must not be predicated upon a further increase in steel prices. The result is the most important frontal attack yet launched on the problems of inflation.

All of which is good news to every citizen now struggling to stretch his income to meet his expenses. But the steel agreement, product as it is of free collective bargaining, also has another and perhaps a deeper significance. Those gentlemen in Washington who are now busily putting together restrictive labor legislation might take note of the fact that statesmanship is not now impossible in labor-management relations. They might wonder if, along with the closed shop, the jurisdictional strike, etc., they are likely to outlaw also the possibility of reasonable labor-management settlements worked out in private by reasonable men.

The Extension Of City Limits

AROUND City Hall they now refer to next Monday's vote on City extension as the forgotten election. The school tax vote, the municipal primaries, the coming ABC election—all these controversial contests have served to obscure a referendum in which no organized factions have emerged.

All of this means, we suppose, that extension of the City limits will be approved by a rather large majority. Every citizen of Charlotte is entitled to vote on the question and few if any of these have any reason for voting against it. Such opposition as does exist comes from those residents of the fringe communities who dislike City taxes even more than they like such City services as fire and police protection. Unless there is a negligible vote in the City precincts, therefore the opponents should be heavily outnumbered.

Whether the vote is heavy or light, however, the matter is as important as any Mecklenburgers will see during the present siege of elections. Although the addition of perhaps 10,000 persons to the roster of City dwellers will do the Chamber of Commerce's heart good, it is not from an urge toward mere bigness that Charlotte has decided that her limits must be extended. The election is a necessary part of the process of orderly growth.

The communities that now ring the City are not independent under any definition. They are linked to Charlotte by water pipes, sewer mains, telephone lines, and electric wires, and they are also linked by the equally binding ties of common interest. Yet, until they are formally incorporated in the City, Charlotte has no control over them. They may grow as they see fit—build narrow streets, merge industrial and residential sections, violate proper standards of health and sanitation. Eventually they must come into the City for the obvious reasons it is wise to bring them in while they are still in their formative stages.

It is unfortunate that most of the sections incorporated by the present extension are already largely built-up. The City will gain precious little elbow room in the process, and if the prerent rate of growth is sustained will face the same problem again in a few years.

At any rate, the present election is timely, and we hope our confidence in its outcome is justified. It would be tragic if through negligence or lack of interest a sufficient number of City residents failed to go to the polls on Monday and mark the special ballots in favor of extension.

The World's Deep-Freeze Locker

IF anybody is entitled to talk like a Sunday supplement writer, it is Admiral Byrd. For many years the Admiral has been setting foot where no man ever trod before and, except for a little minor criticism for his habit of naming mountain ranges after his wife's relatives, the Admiral's reputation as an explorer is unsullied.

It is of some interest, therefore, that the Admiral has turned up with a new suggestion for future use of his private domain at the South Pole. The place, he says, would make a wonderful deep-freeze unit, functioning with no operating overhead at all. Fresh fruit left behind by the Byrd expedition 15 years ago came out of the ice with its flavor and nutritive value intact. Any sort of foodstuff can be preserved indefinitely, it seems, by simply setting it ashore in Little America.

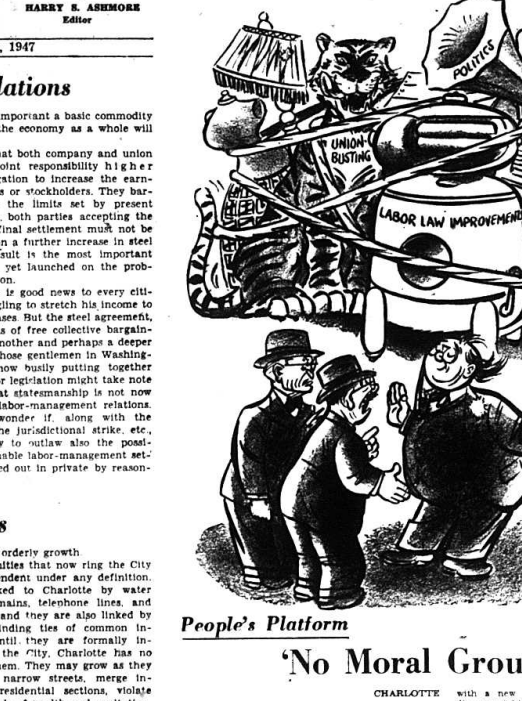
This has led the Admiral to the conclusion that the south polar wastes offer a solution to the problem of feeding the world. In years of plenty, he suggests, surplus foodstuffs should be transported to Little America and stored, thus maintaining production and protecting markets without actually destroying anything edible after the New Deal manner. In years of famine, such as this one, it would then be quite a simple matter to go to nature's deep-freeze locker and take out enough to care for the starving.

The plan is as admirable as it is simple. But there arise the usual problems of method. Private enterprise might take on the task of purchasing and storing foodstuffs in Little America but it would expect, reasonably enough, to make a profit on their ultimate resale. The starving, unhappily, are rarely able to pay their grocery bills.

This means then that some governmental organization would have to take over the deep-freeze approach to famine. Frightening words spring automatically to mind—collectivist, bureaucracy, meddling, planning, do-good, waste, extravagance. It could be argued that neither of the two apparently irreconcilable systems now prevailing in the world—capitalistic democracy and communism—could possibly handle the task even if the practitioners of either were willing to let their competitors try.

However, it is well for men like Admiral Byrd to remind us of nature's potentials from time to time. They also remind us of the good life we might create on this planet if we could solve certain basic problems of human relationship. In the meantime it is nice to know that facilities for feeding every human being on earth are at hand in case we ever arrive at a time when we are willing to work as hard at preserving the human race as we are at destroying it.

'We Just Want A Washing Machine'



People's Platform

'No Moral Ground . . .'

CHARLOTTE

Editors, THE NEWS:

THE motion of the Mecklenburg Ministerial Association was the logical and inevitable decision to emanate from a group of Christian ministers so deeply concerned with the moral and spiritual welfare of human lives, to say nothing of the physical, mental and financial implications involved.

As a layman I thoroughly approve their stand.

Why is the word "overindulgence" used? Certainly liquor, beer and wine does not become inimicable to the physical welfare of the individual until that individual partakes of his first drink.

Who will not say, however that public or private drinking of intoxicants does not directly or indirectly effect the lives of many—first the individual himself, his family, his neighbors and society in general.

The abuse of the evil begins with its use in my opinion.

It will not encourage temperance to establish the ABC system of sale, thus making it easier for the stuff to be obtained, or try to make it respectable by calling it "legal."

If everyone will see the matter in its true light they will have to admit that liquor is an evil—a very great evil—a curse to humanity.

Why is the word "control" used—Alcoholic Beverage Control? There has not been and never will be such a thing as control by ABC stores.

The only safe thing for America and for all nations is to abolish it—stop the manufacture and sale of the poison. This we will have gone a long way toward the solution of crime disease, wrecked lives and homes. Our government can dry up the country if it would. Prohibition has never had a fair trial. Law enforcement officers were luke-warm if not entirely cold in their attitudes.

Yes "The question is before the voters" as you say and voters who favor liquor stores will be forever responsible for the attendant results. Many will not see or hear. They will close their eyes, their ears and their minds.

But the results will be reflected in the lives of debauched men and women, the wrecked homes, rags and hunger, full court dockets, over-running jails and penitentiaries.

There is no "high moral ground" on the liquor side of the issue. The public should look closely into the question.

Will liquor stores help or intensify our problem? What are the records in ABC counties?

Is there less drinking or more? Is there less crime, less poverty and disease or more? Have taxes been lowered or increased? Are people in those counties more prosperous and happier because liquor is plentiful and easy to get?

—CHARLES W. RAMSEY SR.

On Democracy

CHARLOTTE

Editors, THE NEWS:

YOU are to be commended on your editorial, "The Men Who Won't Run." People are too slack on their duty as citizens. They should turn out in mass and register and vote in all elections, be it national, state, or local elections.

As surely as night follows the day, if this is not done they will wake up one of these mornings with a new form of government. Democracy will die overnight.

Once their freedom is gone it will take years to bring back a free government. We are the best governed people on earth, but like all other good things it can be lost.

One can never tell. Pupils should be impressed upon in high school that you should watch all elections, study who is to make the laws you live under, what's happening in Washington, over the Nation, over your State, and your local laws.

You will wake up when your tax rate jumps up to five dollars on the hundred dollars valuation. And it is sure to do that if Charlotte's budget is not paid more attention to. Wake up folks do your duty as citizens in all future elections register on time, then turn out and vote. If you go wrong next time you can correct it.

—WM. C. McINTIRE.

Screw?

CHARLOTTE

Editors, THE NEWS:

FIRST let me remind you that President Truman pledged himself to carry on in the way of the New Deal over the dead body of Franklin D. Roosevelt. And by now the American people should at least partly realize what the New Deal has done against America. Truman holds true to the New Deal line. He blames the Republicans, which he calls isolationists, with their high tariff for all the misery and destruction the New Deal brought on the world. The first quality of any public servant should be plain truthfulness. Once a man misrepresents the truth in serious matters you should question his actions in all things concerning the state.

Now for a few serious questions: Did Truman not select General Marshall as his representative to Moscow? Did Truman not instruct General Marshall before he left for Moscow? If he did not he certainly did not act the part of a Chief Executive. Some time ago Congress stopped shipment of $25,000,000 worth of refinery equipment to Russia which was about to leave the United States. Now it is reported that Secretary of State Marshall sent a cable to Undersecretary of State asking that Congress O. K. shipments of the $25,000,000 oil refinery equipment. Why did Marshall not appeal to the President instead of Congress? Then let the President ask Congress. Did Truman and Marshall have an understanding on the $25,000,000 before he went to Russia? I have reason to believe they did. Truman's representative to Moscow asks for $25,000,000 to advance Russia and Truman asks Congress for $400,000,000 to stop Russia. Very screwy, ain't it. It looks like Truman is hell-bent on out-tricking, confusing and discrediting the Republican Congress and Senate at any cost to the American people.

—P. C. BURKHOLDER.

The People's Platform is available to any reader who cares to mount it. Communications should be less than 300 words, typewritten if possible, and on only one side of the paper. Libel and obscenity will be deleted—otherwise anything goes. Each letter must be signed, although, in exceptional cases and upon request, we will withhold the writer's name.—Editors, THE NEWS.

Stewart Alsop

Middle East Revolt

CAIRO.

ANIMALS in Egypt, and in most of other Middle Eastern countries, are more valuable commodities than people. The donkeys, horses and camels are on the whole better fed, housed and cared for than the unfortunate fellahin. A few years back, Americans could afford to react to this information with an indifference only faintly tinged with a mild and distant indignation.

It has now become, however, a fact which closely affects the vital American interest. For Egypt, like a number of other states in this area, is a Marxist's dream of a decadent capitalist state rushing headlong down the Cadarene slope toward social revolution.

The Soviet Union may well now have temporarily shelved any plans for military expansion in this area in the near future. Yet enormous opportunities remain for political expansion, and there are many signs that the Soviets intend to exploit these opportunities, and to exploit them far more astutely than in the past.

PRELIMINARY STAGE

This exploitation is now only in the preliminary stage. The center of direction for all Communist activity in the Middle East is Beirut, and the supreme commander of this activity is a Soviet official with the curious name of Daniel S Solad. Solad knew nothing about Middle Eastern affairs when he first arrived as a secretary in the Soviet Embassy in Cairo some years ago, but according to those who have met him, he is a clever man. He has caught on very quickly.

This intelligence and aptitude are reflected in the current Soviet and Communist line in Egypt and elsewhere in this area. For Solad and his superiors in Moscow have clearly recognized that the old, style propaganda, with its anti-religious, materialist and rigidly Marxist overtones is not suited to the social pattern of the Middle East. Therefore, a new approach has been devised, with three principal points of emphasis, each designed for maximum effect.

The first is Mohammedanism. The Soviets have apparently recognized that their anti-religious reputation in the intensely religious Middle East is a hurdle which must be removed. Therefore, every care is taken to present the Soviet Union as the great friend and protector of the Moslem faith. The Soviet Ambassador in Cairo, Abdul Rachman Sultanoff, is a somewhat ostentatiously devout Moslem, who appears with becoming and highly visible regularity at the mosque.

A great Soviet Mohammedan university has been established at Tashkent in Central Asia, and promising young Moslem intellectuals are given free courses there. The Soviet radio regularly beams toward the Middle East readings from the Koran, a great and difficult art beautifully performed by the Soviet readers. Soviet radio propagandists have even spoken kindly of the extreme right-wing Moslem Brotherhood. And so on.

ANTI-BRITISH CRY

Second, there is nationalism. This reduces itself in effect to the cry, "out with the British," repeated both on the Moscow radio and by the members of secret Communist cells, who are instructed to repeat anti-British and anti-foreign stories in the bazaars, without giving the source. Here the Soviets are tapping a rich vein, for a violent nationalist xenophobia is one of the chief underlying factors in Middle Eastern politics.

Finally, the third point of Soviet emphasis is simply change. Change is the basic Soviet point, and it is in the long run their strongest point. For they stand for revolution in a situation which throughout the Middle East is essentially revolutionary. There is no expert in this area—even among the normally highly conservative British Colonial Office officials—who is not convinced that a blow-up will come sooner or later, and probably sooner.

Between the fabulously rich ruling class on the one hand and the miserable fellahin on the other there is a small class of so-called "intellectuals," graduates of universities, jobless, dissatisfied, restless. These men, rather than the lethargic fellahin, frighten the ruling class. And rightly so, for given the conditions, this necessary backing, they are capable of lighting the spark.

Samuel Grafton

Housing Recession

NEW YORK

ACCORDING to the New York Herald Tribune, Administration economists have been whispering into Mr. Truman's ear, lately, reddening ear the unhappy news that only 750,000 housing units will be started this year, as compared with 1,000,000 last year. This is very strange, because the exit of Mr. Wilson Wyatt as national housing administrator on Dec. 4 was supposed to be the signal for a new burst of housing activity.

Oh, those wonderful days of last December when so many little conservatives believed that we had only to throw out our housing controls, and get rid of priorities, and set our construction industry free (free, do you hear, free) to start a tremendous housing boom. Something must have been wrong with the theory, because it hasn't happened. And come to think of it, there has been a great deal of theoretical wreckage scattered over the landscape since last Fall.

One can remember when Senators pounded each other on the back in delight and gratification over Mr. Wyatt's resignation, and assured each other and the world hotly how now, with the silly priorities and allocations gone, houses would jump from the earth like the crocuses of Spring.

CURIOUS RECESSION

Instead there appears to be something like a construction recession under way. It is a curious recession, for during it building materials companies are reported to be making unprecedented profits, even on volume that is far below expectations; some lumber company earnings are reported at 400 per cent above normal. And Mr. Truman is declared to be planning a campaign of "moral suasion" to induce the interested parties to give us some housing at reasonable cost, though it doesn't say whether he is merely going to take his hat off and ask pretty, or get down on his knees and beg.

All this represents a major theoretical debacle; the evil result has followed the adoption of the wrong theory as neatly and patly as the tinkle of glass follows the heaving of a brick through a window.

And don't look now, but we are of course in something of the same condition as regards prices. In this field, too, we had precisely the same Congressional jubilation at the end of control and the same hearty promises that if only we allowed prices to be free (free, do you hear) they would soon settle down. Instead, prices are at about the highest point in 25 years, and the Wall Street Journal says that Mr. Truman has had only "a dozen or so" price cutting reports, in response to his requests, none of them "significant."

EXAMPLE OF COLLAPSE

It would be hard to find more striking examples in history of complete theoretical collapse, and if we were the kind of people who called our Congressmen to account, the heat content of the ensuing blushes would be nearly enough to blow up for the world coal shortage.

Senator Taft now tells us, as if by way of reassurance, that the cost of living "has hardly increased at all during the last four months." To reach this construction, the Senator selects last December as his base for making comparisons, two months after the wild initial rise which put food prices up nearly 50 pg cent; what he is really saying is that the cost of living hasn't gone up since it hit the sky. The Senator need go back only three months further back in making his comparisons to paint a picture of a quite different sort.

TRUST FAILED

The story of the year remains the story of how a certain theory regarding the way to run our affairs had had a major test, and failed hard. A great deal of profit has been made out of the ending of controls, but conservative opinion is paying a definite price for this, in the erosion of its philosophy, the wreckage of its grand idea that the way to save a complex economy, in a difficult time of transition, is to let nature take its course. It will be hard for conservatism, in any similar future urgency, to peddle with conviction the doctrine that the way out is to throw 140,000,000 people into a rat race.

Another Voice

After All, That's Protestantism

MECKLENBURG Presbytery votes to ask the Southern Presbyterian Church to withdraw from the Federal Council of Churches of Christ in America.

The seceders aver that the Council stands for everything spiritually and economically to which Southern Presbyterians are opposed. Other members of the Presbytery—naturally the vote was not unanimous—say the result of secession would be to isolate Southern Presbyterians from the rest of the churches of the country.

Well, all of this is Presbyterians' business, whether handled by church or Presbytery. Protestants have during the present generation made considerable effort to unite, as witness Northern and Southern Methodists and Methodists Protestant getting together. But shall we say that the Wesleyan Methodists are any the less religious for remaining on the outside, or that the worship of God is less fervent among the Associate Reformed Presbyterians than among the Southern Methodists from whom they seceded?

The logical outcome of Protestantism, we have heard some pretty intelligent theologians assert, would be a church for every man, woman and child.

On this basis, which we in the light of history are inclined to accept, the failure of any group of Christians to associate themselves with other groups for what would seem to be mechanical rather than spiritual purposes should not alarm their well-wishers.

And if somebody should seek to disparage the Mecklenburg Presbytery's action by taking lightly those things for which the Federal Council stands economically and to which Southern Presbyterians may be opposed, is it not true that the Council deals more with economic than spiritual matters? Certainly it has never sought to project one creed.—*Greensboro Daily News.*

If the big tax slash were saved for next year, some opine, it might well swing the election. This is known among deeper political plotters as the know-when.

For the dramatic rescue dash across the Northern wilderness, our choice is still a team of dogs. A helicopter, arriving at the scene, doesn't pant.

Psychology is wonderful. When an Illinois thief dropped money in his wake to get rid of his pursuers, their numbers rapidly increased.

Drew Pearson's Merry-Go-Round

Ed Flynn Urges Liberalism On Truman

WASHINGTON

PRESIDENT TRUMAN heard some blunt talk about "liberalism" from an unexpected quarter the other day. The man who preached the sermon on liberalism was none other than Ed Flynn, "Boss of the Bronx" and the man who did the most, next to Bob Hannegan, to nominate Truman at Chicago.

Flynn, together with Democratic leaders from Rhode Island, New York, New Jersey and Connecticut called at the White House to discuss party political prospects with the Chief Executive, and barely had they been seated when Flynn cut loose. Democratic executive director Gael Sullivan, standing near the President, started the discussion by saying:

"Folks, this is our listening post for today. We want to hear your problems. Go ahead and tell us about them."

"The biggest problem the Democratic Party has," shot back New York's boss Flynn, "is staying liberal. Unless the Democratic Party remains liberal we're licked."

"That's just what we're doing, Ed, staying liberal," replied the gentleman whom Flynn helped make President of the United States.

"On some things we are," said Flynn, "but on others we're missing the boat. There's a growing tendency in the Administration to move over to dead center. This trend toward the center should be stopped. That's the Republican Party's spot. Dead center. And that's what the center is, 'dead.'"

Truman politely said that he didn't notice any such trend.

"Well," replied Flynn, "we've got to get in there and pitch for more progressive legislation. We've got to fight harder for health, welfare, social insurance and education. We've got to do a lot more than we've done about housing too. We can't let Taft steal the play on that front either."

"Ed, I'm going down the line for every piece of legislation I believe in," Truman declared. "I stated our program of social legislation in my message to the Congress last January. In that message I wasn't just talking with my head, I was talking with my heart too."

Note—Next day, the House passed the tough GOP anti-labor bill with 93 Democrats voting with the Republicans.

Hague Speaks

JERSEY CITY'S Frank Hague, who also had a lot to do with nominating Truman, backed up Flynn. He too called for more liberalism in the party as an essential for re-election in '48. However, he wasn't as outspoken as the boss of the Bronx.

"We've just seen the enormous rise in the President's prestige nationally," said Hague. "But we must not be deceived by it. We're now in an era of good feeling. This is the very time we must work the hardest. If we don't we're liable to slip back into the rut."

Hague reported that the New Jersey outlook is dim for the Democrats unless a lot of hard work is done. He mentioned the reverses of the last campaign, urged his fellow politicians to push for a larger vote next year.

Green Quotes Pearson

RHODE ISLAND'S Senator Theodore Francis Green observed that the growth of Truman's popularity is due to the fact that the President showed the country he could make decisions on his own. In order to remain popular, Green said, the President would have to continue making forthright decisions.

He warned the party against playing down Roosevelt too much, however, and pointed out that the country would be a long time forgetting that the Democratic Party was Roosevelt's Party.

"Don't forget," said the Senator from Rhode Island, "that the Republicans haven't dare, repeal a single piece of Roosevelt legislation, or even attack it for that matter. This should show all of us how popular he still is and how strongly his memory favors us."

Green went on to cite a tendency in the Democratic Party to play down Roosevelt for fear of diminishing President Truman's stature.

"As Drew Pearson said, Mr. President," Green concluded, "you've got an opportunity to be President and make history by being the first great President to follow a great President. We're all sure you're doing just that."

Women's Vote

A RATHER sharp note was sounded by Connecticut National Committee Woman Mary Hausman, who urged action to retrieve the women's vote.

"Make no mistake about it," she said. "The women beat us last time. And they can do it again. It takes an awful lot of irritation (to make millions of women carry their babies with them to the polls on Election Day to vote against an administration whose actions they disagree with. It will take a lot of work to make them vote for us next time."

Although not asked to comment, Mayor Hague seemed to take this almost as personal criticism.

"Don't look at me," he said, "I'm for the women."

Mail Bag

EDWIN W. PAVENSTEDT, Miami—The authority for my statement that Senator Borah of Idaho urged Franklin Roosevelt to take a stand for the Spanish Loyalists in the Spanish Civil War comes from himself. . . . Ambassador Oswaldo Aranha, New York—The important U. S. African air base, Roberts Field, in Liberia, opposite the bulge of Brazil, is likely to be closed down shortly as a result of GOP Congressional economy. The field, important to Brazilian and American air routes through Africa, cost $3,000,000 to build and about $100,000 to keep up annually. If we give it up, it reverts to Liberia which will turn it over to the French, who already are angling for it. Some U. S. Army men are privately worried about Russian influence in the French Government and fear Roberts Field might become a stepping-stone through Africa to South America.