

FRIDAY, AUGUST 22, 1947

## Another Big Stride For The South

Readers who usually scan the news for the railroad class freight rates for Southern and Western railroads go into effect today will obtain only a slight inkling of the elation and hope which this event brings to the business community in the South. The whole story is barely suggested in figures showing that the new schedules will eliminate some of the discrimination which favored the North and East over this section.

Briefly, the Interstate Commerce Commission has made a reduction of 10 per cent in class rates on shipments within and from the South and West to and from the East and North, and increased comparable rates in the East and North 10 per cent. This lowers an advantage which North and East industries formerly enjoyed over South and West competitors in other regions, and also gives the South and West a better chance to bid for business in the North and East.

The importance of this equalization is not reflected in the statement that class rates constitute only 5 per cent of the total freight bill. It is the fact that many businesses, among the factors that heighten the good effect of the rate reduction are the higher quality of the goods that move under class rates and the fact that many businesses ship more on class rates while some use them entirely.

The size of the gain is not minimized by the fact that it has taken twenty-five years of study and action to bring about this. Three years of hard and often seemingly fruitless work have brought to the South a

new conception of the magnitude of the transportation problem, created the instruments for its solution, and informed us with a "know how" that will be useful in other fields besides traffic.

This stride toward a sounder economy was made possible largely by such organizations as the Charlotte Shippers & Manufacturers Association, Working with similar bodies in other cities, it started the search and laid the basis for an enlightened attack on the freight rate barriers which so long had handicapped the South. These groups in turn enlisted the support of governors and congressional commissions of the Southeastern States. Together they moved the ICC to order the investigation that established the justice and economic soundness of their case.

The result is that we now have a great store of exact information on the subject, together with the sentiment and the organizations which provide assurance that the principle of uniformity will be followed in the schedules established under the class rate order. At the same time we have cleared the ground for the next big step, the adjustment of commodity rates, which cover the bulk of traffic.

It is, in fact, a heartening example of intelligent planning and real achievement under the democratic system for co-operative action by private interests. The benefits for all should be large. The railroad may not be able to handle increased traffic in the South and the entire nation will benefit from the decentralization of industry that will be encouraged by this work.

## No Slump For Fifteen Years?

FADING of the predicted business recession emphasizes the contention of an eminent American economist that most of the forecasts are lower than the actual figures and missing signs which spell a protracted wave of prosperity rather than a Boom and Bust.

In his cheerful report on this, Ewan Clague announced that "definitely no recession" is predicted for the next fifteen years on the basis of statistics showing that peak employment above 60 million in July for the second consecutive month.

Prof. Sumner H. Slichter of Harvard, chairman of the Research Advisory Board of the Committee for Economic Development, goes considerably beyond Director Clague to suggest that we are in the midst of an expansion—not an inflation—that will go on "indefinitely," and he even ventures an estimate of the growth over the next fifteen years.

In an article in the *New York Times Magazine*, the Professor directs attention to two major factors in the bright record of the economy in the present year. One is a picture which most of us regard as a temporary phenomenon but which the Harvard economist looks upon as a natural and permanent development.

One of those factors is productivity, the output per man-hour, which has been increasing at the rate of about 3 per cent a year since the turn of the century as a re-

sult of our technological advances. It may be expected not only to continue at that rate, but actually to increase on the basis of continued technological improvements, the Professor finds.

The other large factor is research, which stimulates technological progress and also tends to make the economy more competitive, and competition is a powerful dynamic influence.

In view of these factors, Professor Slichter was amazed at the recent findings of two economists who forecast a 1 per cent growth of national income for the next fifteen years. The average forecast for the period 1936-60 was \$154 billion a year, or nearly 7 per cent below 1946. This low estimate is explained by the expectation of many of the economists that prices will be lower—the composite estimate of the group was a price level of 10 to 15 per cent below the present one.

Asserting that those economists failed to take proper account of technological progress, Professor Slichter says a "conservative but more realistic estimate" would be about \$200 billion a year in 1960, or an annual income between 1956 and 1960 should average, not \$237 billion but above \$260 billion.

## Bilbo's Legacy Is A Warning

THERE will be no sincere effort by anyone, we suppose, to compose a glowing eulogy of the late Senator Theodore G. Bilbo. The late Senator for Mississippi personified the worst elements in American political life; he attained his high station in our Government by appealing to the basest prejudices of the populace and his career in Mississippi and Washington was marked by a most sordid portfolio of public offices which he filled.

Bilbo plumed himself as the champion of the South, but he added nothing to the South's reputation and failed entirely to advance its cause. His battles for states' rights and his filibusters against anti-lynching legislation and bills to repeal poll taxes and requirements for literacy tests in order to qualify for the ballot were in the manner to which the issues and point out that to might best serve the national interest as well as the highest interests of the South. Instead, he used these differences as opportunities to further complicate the conflict, and to establish himself as a symbol of blind reaction and hatred. The whole movement of the South to solve its problems, to ameliorate old wrongs and to bring a better life to the entire population, was set back by Bilbo's furious struggles and flaming words.

However, the tragedy of Bilbo is in reality a symptom of the tragedy of representative government in the present day. The danger which our system faces from the prejudice and apathy of the electorate was demonstrated at each step of his career as champion of racial supremacy, and as the representative of the great majority of citizens to whom the elemental right of suffrage was denied. Insofar as he dramatized for us the extent to which ignorance and prejudice have become a part of American democracy, perhaps he served a useful purpose.

The American people repudiated Bilbo before his death, when the United States Senate hesitated, and had not his illness intervened would have refused to grant him a seat. But in a sense, Bilbo must be repudiated until we destroy the conditions which nurtured him.

The life of this tragic figure is ended; but the challenge and the warning of that life to Americans will not easily be forgotten—the challenge to extend the benefits and privileges of democracy to all men, and the warning that the entire population, was set back by Bilbo's furious struggles and flaming words.

## Another Voice

## Hunger For The Bible

AMERICAN exports to needy nations notably include the Bible. Along with foreign lack of food goes a great shortage of the Scriptures. Hunger abroad for both has brought fresh emphasis to the Biblical truth, "Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God."

The 131-year-old American Bible Society has become the main source of supply of the Scriptures for the world. It reports:

"Countries where war has destroyed not only the people's Bibles but their printing presses as well."

To keep the Scriptures flowing into the war-ravaged areas, the American Bible Society has been sending out great quantities of foodstuffs are soon used up and forgotten. The Bible is food that is permanent. "For the bread of God is he which cometh down from heaven, and giveth life unto the world."—Christian Science Monitor.

The U. S. population eats better than at any time in its history. The average man has a peculiar allergy to work. This is a new condition, possibly calling for another miracle drug.

'Ever Feel As If You Were Only Half There?'



## Joseph &amp; Stewart Alsop

## The Eisenhower Candidacy

WASHINGTON  
GENERAL of the Army Dwight D. Eisenhower just returned to Washington from his summer vacation-inspection trip. Besides the gigantic problems of American security in the Pacific and the Atlantic, the Alsops at the Capital are concerned with a more personal nature. This is the problem of the Eisenhower Presidential candidacy.

Whether the General likes it or not—and he has given every indication that he dislikes it intensely—his Presidential prospects now constitute a very solid problem indeed. A new phase began with the announcement that Eisenhower would become president of Columbia University in January, which has been technically available since then. Signs have been accumulating of another of those rather alien-like stampedes which are customary among the high men who back Presidential hopefuls.

These denizens of the New York and other financial districts are, in most cases, rather like informed but enthusiastic bettors on horse races. They want to pick the winner. Each new rumor or report below their level sends them rushing to the betting windows to get their money down the right way. A great many of them would now like to get their money down on Eisenhower. The only question is whether this superb entry, generally considered to be the equal of any other animal in the Republican sweepstakes, will run at all.

In the last analysis, the answer to this vital question depends upon two rather mysterious questions—General Eisenhower himself and the situation in the country. The Eisenhower candidacy would be full-fledged, if there were adequate foundation for the reports that the General has been committed to the General under the leadership of the exceedingly astute Roy Roberts, of the Kansas City Star. But these reports are distinctly peep into a future which has not yet materialized.

There is no doubt that Eisenhower's sentiment is strong in Kansas, or that this strength will survive his becoming a New York resident. By the end of the war, of course, Eisenhower had been away from his native place for a long time. But the reports, however, Kansas' swelling to Eisenhower were organized by Roy Roberts and other leading men. In the course of the election, they say, much of him, and all were deeply impressed. This was the beginning of Roberts' preference for an Eisenhower candidate. Since then, the General has become a brother, Milton Eisenhower, who is rumored far more ambitious for the General than the General is himself, has become a leading Kansas figure, and the State Agricultural College.

On the other hand, as of today, Kansas is emphatically not organized for Eisenhower. The most powerful of the state professional politicians is the steel fabricator, Harry Darby, who is also Republican candidate for Governor. He has been a leading figure in the New York Governor's Western campaign.

A contest for the Senatorship is also on foot between Governor Andrew Schoepfer and the incumbent, the aging Arthur Capper. Capper has been last to lose his famous aristocratic taste, and keeping both eyes to the ground at once. Schoepfer

is supported by Darby and is expected to defeat Capper. Consequently by all the rules, Schoepfer will also work with Darby in shaping up the state delegation to the Republican convention.

THERE remains the Republican Party's 1936 nomination of Governor Alf M. Landon, whose trailing clouds of former glory have begun to thin out to mere wisps. Schoepfer and Landon are at odds. Possibly he resents Darby's power with the state organization. Landon cannot deliver the state, yet the rumors that "Kansas for Eisenhower" seem to originate in Landon's perambulations of the East.

None the less, the rumors could begin to become realities tomorrow if Roy Roberts really decided to lead a charge into the state. The political leaders of both Kansas and Missouri have confidence in Mr. Roberts, and are healthily aware that they have got to get with him and his very considerable influence. Darby may be for Dewey now, but Kansas is likely to be for Eisenhower in the end if Roberts so desire. If that occurs, the threat to Governor Thomas E. Dewey will be very firm indeed. Dewey is almost certain to have to win the Republican nomination on second-ballot switches. If Eisenhower has a solid base in Kansas, and an active organization in Missouri, the second ballot switches are likely—perhaps more likely—to go to Eisenhower.

Roberts has let it be known that he will do nothing to hinder the Presidential campaign. He has remained passive to date is the clearest proof of the sincerity of what Eisenhower has said on the subject of his candidacy. It should also be taken as a warning by the money betters. As to what may occur in the future, however, none can forecast, except that whatever Eisenhower does will be consistent with a character of high integrity and patriotism.

The People's Platform is available to any reader who desires it. Communications should be less than 300 words, typewritten if possible, and on only one side of the paper. The platform will be delivered without charge. No return of any kind is required. Each letter must be signed although, in exceptional cases and upon request, the initials of the writer's name—Editors, The News.

## Senator Soaper Says:

A proposal that colleges operate 24 hours a day after the manner of the military service, would be a boon on the daytime valley elite to finance an education on the night shift.

Nazi generals, accused of "murder, ill treatment of slave labor, plunder, wanton destruction and execution of hostages" will have their day in court to try to clear up the misunderstanding.

Not many can string along with the Soviet claim that the radio itself was invented by Popov. The influence is more clearly detected in the commercial.

## Drew Pearson's: Byrnes Gives Formula To S. Diplomats

By ROBERT S. ALLEN  
(For The Pearson)

JAMES F. BYRNES, trigger-smart former Secretary of State now practicing law in Washington, has been following the Foreign Policy Committee's hearings. This is particularly true as regards relations with Soviet Russia, with whom Byrnes had previous times painful encounters during a number of conferences.

An old friend asked Byrnes if he thought it was possible for the U. S. and the USSR to reach a better understanding. This was Byrnes' reply:

"I think it is, and this is my formula. Get people who believe deeply that we can find a path for working with the Russians. Then support that people to the limit. When they start getting discouraged and cynical, replace them with others who are more optimistic. It is a long process. As is evident, such a program would take time, patience, brains and courage. But I believe it would work. I certainly believe it could be better than the present situation. It is an alternative to 'conquer'."

NOTE: Another old friend recently remarked to Byrnes, "The bad you resigned, Jimmy?" To which Byrnes shot back, "Who said I resigned?"

## Paton Guests

REPUBLICAN National Chairman B. Carroll Reece arrived in Buenos Aires several days ago with his wife and daughter for what he described to reporters as "just a little holiday." The GOP chairman was given a 40-dollar-a-day suite in the Argentine capital's swankiest hotel, the Plaza. Officials of the Foreign Ministry instructed the hotel's management that all food and drinks ordered by the Reeces be charged to the Government. An automobile with private license plates, rented by the Minister from Buenos Aires' leading funeral parlor, was placed at the visitors' service.

The Reece family joined several other Paton guests in the Plaza. Harold McCormick of the Moore-McCormick

Steamship Lines, with his wife, and Edward Fenton, head of the U. S. Public Relations Council, were already installed there on an all-expense basis.

Penton came to Buenos Aires to negotiate final terms of a contract which he told newsmen in New York, may involve expenditure of \$100,000 in the United States to extol the virtues of the Argentine's flamboyant Chief Executive and his grandiose five-year plan.

The publicist's statement created considerable annoyance in the Argentine capital. It was supposed to have occurred in several other positions. One miffed Paton official remarked: "Mr. Penton will have to explain away his indiscretion before he talks about anything else."

## Marriage Talisman

POPULAR tourist spot in the great-old Capital is the star-shaped marble stone inlaid in the ground floor near the bust of Susan B. Anthony, pioneer suffragist. Known as the "Lucky Star," it is supposed to have occult powers. Captain guide John Guiffre was explaining this to a couple of Pennsylvanians the other day when a husky, middle-aged woman suddenly rushed forward and yelled, "Hold it, hold everything. Gertrude is the only one we want to rub her faces on that star." Come to think of it, Gertrude, a good-looking couple-eyed as a young woman pushed through the crowd and began a whirling dervish act, the music from the band, the clapping, the cheering, the arms gratefully, and whirled around dizzily.

Guiffre asked the older woman what it was all about. This was her explanation: "Well, Mister, Gertrude can use some luck. You see she lost her husband not long ago and we're all pulling for her to get another man."

## Steel Hoarders

THE (former) Senate Small Business Committee hearings on the critical steel shortage will put the State Department, Army and Navy on the spot.

Life in Soviet Union

## Down On The Farm

This is another of Paul W. Ward's articles in the series "Life in the Soviet Union," reprinted from The Baltimore Sun.

BY PAUL W. WARD  
ANYBODY who thinks the Soviet Union's collective-farming system is a sort of communism is in a fair way to be misled. It is not the workers share and share alike or that it has raised the standard of living of the Russian agricultural sector. It is a system of Russian agriculture faced a series of surprises if he visits the U.S.S.R.

He will find, on the one hand, that the equal distribution of the profits of a collective farm (kolkhoz) among the men and women working on it is frowned upon by Russia's current rulers, the Communists.

And on the second count, he will discover that the Soviet farmer, despite all Bolshevik efforts at mechanization of U.S.S.R. agriculture, is still only slightly more productive than the American farmer. The Communist Party, Dr. Elsworth Huntington, the Yale geographer, found on the eve of the war that Russia ranked nineteenth, just above China and India—among 21 countries in agricultural productivity per man on the farm.

The "man" in this case includes the female, of course, for at least 40 per cent of the Soviet Union's Russian farming is done by women. EFFICIENCY DROPS

It is probable that productivity per man is even lower now than before the war, when Dr. Huntington estimated that the Soviet Union was no better than Rumania or Yavanne and only slightly better than China or the Philippines.

Soviet agriculture's mechanical equipment was badly wrecked during the war. Most of its tractors are ten years old, and, at last report, 30,000 were idle for lack of repairs, and an additional 20,000 to 30,000 immobilized by lack of spare parts. INBREA officials say the only new tractors they have seen this year in the Ukraine came from the United States as relief supplies.

Such testimony does not necessarily represent the overall picture. What has been compared so far in the Soviet press about the five-year plan for Soviet rehabilitation contains internal evidence.

## Marquis Childs

## Summer Capital

WASHINGTON  
ALONG with most of the rest of the country, Washington is also in the grip of the summer heat and with it the oppressive weight of the humidity. It is the season of the year when the sun is so hot that it is almost impossible to find a reason to visit some place that is not a vacation spot.

Congress is gone. Secretary of State Marshall is gone. The Brewster-Peterson circuit is on a fond mission. The city has a slightly deserted look, more or less as it did in the long-gone days of the summer. It is a sleepy town that all but shut down in the Summer months after Congress has departed.

One of the officers of the Government still in the city is the President's chief of staff every morning, and he stays customarily until late afternoon.

In a sense he is a prisoner in Washington. Lots of invitations have come to him from all over the country, but he has to stay in the city. In a sense he is a prisoner in Washington. Lots of invitations have come to him from all over the country, but he has to stay in the city.

Fortunately, the President can go on week-ends to the hideout of the Presidential Retreat. President Roosevelt during the war and was called by him Shangri-la. It is a beautiful place, and even more important, it is secluded. The President can get away from the world, and at least the illusion of being alone. For a President, that is a great thing.

At the end of the month, Mr. and Mrs. Truman and their family will go to the Presidential Retreat. That will be a trip and a change. Whether it will be a vacation, or whether it will be a change, we don't know. The three days the President spends in Rio will be just as much a vacation as the Presidential Retreat.

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