THE CHARLOTTE NEWS

J. E. DOWD.

SATURDAY, MAY 1, 1948

U.S. Problem No. 1---Inflation

U. S. Problem No. 1--DESPITE BILLIONS for the European Recovery Program and for dafa as a forces, there is substantial hope in American business circles that the inflation lines can be held. At least it is apparent that some factors are working against further boosts in the price spiral and important elements in our industrial leadership are making a determined stand to stabilize the economy by measures of self-restraint. Groceries are a little cheaper now than in January. The Bouth Carolina Department of Labor says on the Martin than in January. The Bouth Carolina Department of Labor says on the Martin Labor Says of the Martin Labor Sa eighths cents in 1945 and twenty-seven and a quarter cents today. Wheat was 90 cents a bushel in 1938, \$1.75 in 1945 and \$2.35 today. Cocca beans were 5 cents in 1938, \$8 cents in 1945 and thirty-three and a quarter cents today. The company has absorbed "a far greater proportion of the increase in the price of raw" materials, wages, freight and other charges than we have

declared.

The Westinghouse Electric Corp. and the Lukens Steel Co. this week joined the list of companies unvilling to grant another round of wage increases. The Chrysler Corp. U. S. Steel and its other large steel companies previously turned down wage boost requests. Steel and several other classifications of manufacturers have announced price cuts. We may be sure these cuts were not lightly considered.

cuts were not lightly considered.

Secretary of Defense Forrestal has told.
Congress that the Administration wants to hold defense expenditures below fligures favored by some Congressmen principally because it is fareful of the impact of great expenditures on the swollen economy. To go beyond a certain line in appropriations, he indicated, might not help in getting better defenses because the resulting inflation would make everything cost more and at the same time have a disastrous effect on money values in public purchases.

Clearly the responsibility for controlling.

on money values in public purchases.
Clearly the responsibility for controlling prices rests on all groups—consumers, capital, labor, farmer, producer, manufacturer and distribution: The encouraging sign is that so many persons and classes, from the wage-earner and consumer on up through small business and the corporate structures to the Oovernment itself, are so concerned over the necessity for holding the line as to make solid concessions in the hope that others will do likewise.

Ten Million Laughs A Day

WE READ in the papers that Tom Breneman of Hollywood brought laughs to an estimated 10,000,000 persons daily. Ten million laughs a day are enough to cure the nation of "all its sickness, or would be in any normal time. At any rate, its iclear that America botto one of its principal benefactors when Tom Breneman scheduled to appear in another of his "Breakfast in Hollywood" radio programs.

"Breakfast in Hollywood" radio programs. Breneman has been described as 'as abowman unique in radio." His phenomen-al popularity mystiffed many old hands in the entertainment trade because there didn't seem to be much of anything to his programs. His main contribution to the art of comedy was his stunt of warring women's hats while he strolled among the breakfast guests. The other chief point in his routine was the common that present an orcical to the oldest woman present.

an orchid to the oldest woman present. To those who knew Tom Breneman before he became famous there was no mystery in his appeal to the millions, particularly the ladies. His real name was Breneman Smith and he exhibited rare capacity to create merriment when he was a boy and a young man in his native home, Waynesboro. Pa. In those days, Brenny Smith devoted considerable of his time to games and pranks. None of his jokes or tricks was very original or funny, but he always got a laugh.

A Day

Brenny Smith's friends learned, in time, that the comical effect was produced entirely by Brenny's notion that whatever he was doing was amusing. He had the gift of laughter, not the braying belly laugh or guffaw, but the chuckling or tiggling laugh which came from a soul peculiarly in tune with the lighter, the brighter, the happier side of life.

The uniquenes was the bubbling mirrit of his humanity. He made a hit on the radio because he was enough of an artist to be himself in public. His discovery by the ladies of the nation is easy to explain. He was a favorite of the Waynesboro mothers, perhaps because all womanhood shared in the love and veneration which he held for his own mother. The business of awarding an order of Brenny Smith.

There was, however, something more than a sentimental bond between Brennman and the girls of middle age and beyond. As everyone knows, women are giddler creatures than men. There is good reason to believe that men were once less solemn, harried, repressed and inhibited than they are loddy. In from Brennman the work of the contraction of

Charlotte's Paving Problem

A PROBLEM in financing an adequate adequate adequate having and street construction program for the City is created by a set of circumstances explained by Dick Young in his Reporter On Assignment column in Two Naves today. A constitutional amendment prevents the City from issuing bonds for any purpose be yo not two-thirds of the amount of net bond retirement in any one year without a vote of the people. The City cannot now proceed in this course because Charlotte this year is issuing more bonds than it is retiring. Under the law, it will be unable to issue bonds before the 1949-50 flacal year without a special election. special election.
Unless the City is able to find some other

Unless the City is able to find some other way of providing long-term financing for a paving construction program. Charlotte must limp along under an arrangement which discourages street and sidewalk improvements. The City now requires that the money for a project be posted in advance by the owners for every foot of property in the provided of the control of the c

effect of blocking all progress in many more cases.

Obviously, we have a cumbersome and inequitable system. If the City were in a position to furnish long-term financing, it could correct this condition by following position to furnish long-term financing, it could correct this condition by following the policy of ordering improvements on the initiative of a majority of the property owners and making the sasesaments cover of the property owners and making the sasesaments cover of the property owners and making the sasesaments cover of the property owners and making the sasesaments cover of the property owners have been covered and the property of the covered the property owners by special bond election, and distinct which is said to the covered the property owners by apreading the sasesament over a period of years.

The problem is so urgent that the City administration must leave no avenue unexplored in seeking ways out of our present a

dilemms. One possible solution lies in the diversion of more State Righway Department funds to highway maintenance and building in the city. The State literally is rolling in income from the gasoline tax, to which Charlotte contributes a lion's share, and there is a clear case for a greater allotment to the account of the State arterial system in this city. That would reisses some of the City's own funds for maintenance and construction of other streets. The contributes are not become and the state of the contributes are more because the contributes and sidewalks. In any event, this is a No. I item on the Charlotte agends for 1948-49, a challenge to the planning and budget-making skill of the City Government.

Practically everybody in the South knows precisely what ought to be done about radio comics who say "I-all" and "Me-all" and regrets deeply that it is illegal to do it.

—Memphis Commercial-Appeal.

A small political circle is the one that boasts of a member that has never cussed out Drew Pearson.—Columbia News.

Sale of a Lincoln letter for \$5,800 should be an incentive for ambitious young men, whose mothers were sure they would be President some day, to write home oftener.

—Louisville Times.

We don't know that a bombing plane capable of rounding the globe would be necessary, unless we have it in mind to knock ourselves out. — Richmond Times-Dispatch.

The per capita amount of money in circulation in the United States dropped from \$192.32 in February to \$190.46 in March, These GI bables are certainly arriving fast.

—Nashville Tennessean.

That Maine baby who could walk when only nine days old will be a great help in case the sitter wants a glass of water. — Roanoke Times.

With all the voters a massin'
Everything seems to be Stassen.
—Shelby Daily Star.

Pink Elephant



People's Platform

World Union 4s A Necessity

Editors. The News:

HAVE read with much interest and no little concern the editorial from The Monroe Journal reprinted in The News April 28. With much of what the control of the control

Negro Health Problem CHARLOTTE

Editors. The News:

[MATIONAL Negro Health Week ended on April 11,

We feel that this observance has done much to make the students aware of some of the poor health make the students aware of some of the poor health we feel that they should not only be conscious of these conditions during the health week but rather that they practice the things they have learned during the week throughout the year.

We also feel that without your co-operation the program would not have been as successful as it was Please accept our deepest appreciation for the help you have given us —EDWARD H: BROWN, J. E. ORIGSBY.

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

Quote, Unquote

We'd like to see a United States of Europe And, for that matter, we'd like to see one of America — Little Rock (Ark.) Gazette.

Marquis Childs

Vanishing Wealth

when the average industrialist or under the control of the control

Samuel Grafton

Costly Insecurity

Drew Pearson's: Two Vying For Agriculture Dept. Job.

DEMOCRATS are churning up a hot backstage fight of who should succeed Clinton Anderson as Secretary Agriculture. There are two candidates:

Agriculture. There are two candidates.

1 Assistant Secretary Charles Brannan of Deuver, who has worked his way up the leider, has a fine record, plus the backing of his box, Secretary Anderson, and the House Agriculture Committee and for some years the lob both groups are tugging hard at President Truman's cattails for their man. Democratic members of the House Agriculture Committee even tried to persuade Anderson to shirt to Plannagan, but he stopped them code of the sound of the

appaint somebody from a state that won't even its run on the prevent of the prevent president. Trumen's name from appearing on the licket as a result of his civil-rights messed appointment in spite of that." Shot back North Carolina's Harold Cooley.
"Have you read the record of Finningaria seeches?" generated Anderson, still mention to the control of the president of the super trust of the president of the pres

n. Utah's Walter Granger broke in with the comment magen was a "rebel of the South" and had deserted

of the old-time, heetic, hurrying, we cause gone. It doesn't seem so very long ago that Bill came hars from Detroit to co-ordinate the nation's war production. Those were the days when the Army was changing simplies morely every other hour, when admirable and generals were

the South in many of their fraditional stands. On the other hand, he has been a loyal supporter of the Administra-ships, and when Washington scuded patriotism, red tape, lobbyists, and not too much efficiency.

the state of the control of the present section of the Administration, pleaded Oranger.

Byrd's Blessing Buckfires

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It may be a support of the support of the support of the support of the country.

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In the Congressmen. But the President's chilly reception consider it high pressure tackles. Incidentally, two Democratic Party Party Party and the paper—John Marry of Montan, Kligare of West Virginia, Eibert Thomas of Utsh, and Chaves of New Mexico.

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