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MR. TRUMAN MUST ACT SOON

PRESIDENT TRUMAN'S reluctance to use the Taft-Hartley Act to force a resignation of the military is understandable. He has confirmed the use of the law and pledged his Administration to repeal it. His strong labor support would be resentful if he should now fall back upon the weapon he has derided so vehemently.

But the relentless approach of cold weather and the impending discomfort and suffering of millions of American people are steadily lifting Taft-Hartley from the realm of politics, where the President placed it, and restoring it to its proper position as the only means at our disposal for dealing with strikes endangering the national welfare.

Coal is the No. 1 problem now. There can be no real incentive for the steel companies and the steelworkers to settle their dispute until the cold strike is over and a steady supply of fuel for the steel mills is assured.

Furthermore, the shortage of coal supplies for residential use is already critical. The only reason there has not already

been widespread suffering is the delayed advent of cold weather to the East.

One of the Federal Commerce Commissions—the Interstate Commerce Commission—has already recognized the severity of the cold shortage by ordering a curtailment of steam passenger trains. If there is any real hope for John F. Lewis and the coal operators were nearing agreement, the President might be pardoned for waiting another week or two. There are no such signs. Each side would have to be discounted for two reasons: (1) he bellows at the slightest provocation, and (2) he might secretly welcome an injunction as the best way out of the awkward situation he got himself into with his own people.

Regardless of Mr. Lewis' wishes and his own preferences in the matter, Mr. Truman can not wait much longer.

POLITICS AND NUCLEAR ENERGY

THE manner in which the atomic energy investigation came to a close is likely to perpetuate the public impression that the whole thing was a political fight. Ten Democrats on the Joint Senate-House Atomic Energy Committee submitted a report last week clearing the AEC of the charge of mismanagement. The report was hurried last Summer by Senator Hickenlooper.

This week the six Republican committee members submitted a minority report which, although worded in somewhat more restrained language than that used by Mr. Hickenlooper, insisted that a "bolder, speedier, and more effective" atomic energy program is needed.

The inescapable conclusion that the people must draw from these two diametrically opposed reports is that the committee members have investigated the work as good or bad according to their political affiliations. This is a most unsatisfactory ending to an extremely important inquiry.

Senator Hickenlooper acted in haste, and without adequate documentary evidence when he made his original blast. He also used excessively strong and irresponsible language. When the investigation got under way, his sources of information seemed to close up and he was unable to support his allegations.

The suspicion lingers, however, and is stimulated by such outspoken scientists

as Dr. Harold Urey, that the U. S. is not making maximum progress in the broad field of nuclear energy. We are stockpiling bombs to destroy; but the accumulation of weapons of the same general type will not assure our superiority. The best scientists know full well that they are just beginning to realize the full import of releasing nuclear energy. In theory the past two years ago, they are far beyond the limits of the average person's imagination.

Can we approach these limits while operating under a strict veil of secrecy? Is complete government ownership less efficient than a system whereby qualified private engineering and producing firms would be licensed to carry on certain experimental processes? Are we scaring off and discouraging our most competent scientists and engineers by over-stressing the manufacture of weapons? In summary, are we absolutely sure that our atomic energy program is the best of which our nation is capable?

Those are the questions which should have been answered in the Congressional investigation. Instead, the people are given a choice between the Democrats and a quite contrary view of the Republicans, neither of which is documented with information which could be made public without impairing our national security. At a time when we could well use more confidence, we are left with doubt.

SYMBOLIC BUILDING

THERE is a good deal of symbolism in the quaint old frame of the new United Nations building which casts its long shadow over the East River.

It is set amid the teeming population of Manhattan Island as if to keep constantly before the delegates the problems of the overpopulated areas of the world.

It stands on ground once covered by dirt, hazardous slums as if to remind the delegates of the millions of people of miserable existences and leading them to a better life.

And finally it is new, just as the United Nations is new, and it is intended to remove the causes of war and replace them with the conditions for peace and prosperity.

President Truman, in his dedication address the other day, read still more symbolism into the structure. Said Mr. Truman:

"We must make our devotion to the ideals of the Charter as strong as the steel in this building. We must pursue the objectives of the Charter with resolution as firm as the rock that supports the dome. We must conduct our affairs foursquare with the Charter, in terms as true as this construction."

Mr. Truman called the new U. N. headquarters "the center of man's hope for peace and a better life... the place where the nations of the world will work together to build a better world."

Sometimes, in our disappointment over U. N. failures, we have lost sight of that universal hope. It is good to have brought back in such clear focus.

ARE YOU DOING YOUR PART?

MOST of the preparations for the 1949 Carolinas Christmas Festival are going along on schedule. There is one exception, and a rather important one: the fund for defraying the cost of the spectacle is lagging.

It costs about \$20,000 to put on the Christmas Festival and just half of that amount is in hand so far.

It is admittedly difficult to assess in dollars and cents the real value to the community of a volunteer non-commercial event like the Christmas Festival. Last year an estimated 300,000 persons watched the main parade. Many of them were from Charlotte, but the majority came from the communities around the Charlotte area.

The value can't be registered to the tune of a cash register, since stores and shops are closed before the parade. But there is a larger, longer lasting value in any event which brings thousands of visitors to the City and permits them to enjoy an attractive spectacle in a pleasant and festive atmosphere.

More money is needed, and it should come from every business and industrial organization in the city.

More floats are needed if we are to continue expanding the Festival until it reaches the proportions of a Mardi Gras or a Memphis Cotton Carnival.

And finally, more manpower is needed. Most of the work of planning the Festival has been done by a relatively small number of people. The enterprise needs a broader base of public support.

Festive letters, at the moment, intensifying their efforts to obtain the financial resources, floats and manpower for the biggest and best event yet. Their

success will reflect the extent to which Charlotteans in all lines of activity realize the project's worth to the whole community.

We strongly believe in every type of farm support for small farmers, but not for any farm program that will deliberately give advantage to small farms at the expense of larger ones.

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Victims Of Actuarial Axe The Forgotten Ex-Teachers

By DICK YOUNG Charlotte News Staff Writer

IN grateful appreciation of your service, the State of North Carolina comes today, as it will come every month, with this token that you have earned through the years and to say 'well done' and also to wish for you the joy and happiness of lengthening years. Good luck and God bless you all the way.

Dated Aug. 2, 1941 was signed by the late Walter Durham, then secretary of the North Carolina Teachers and State Employees Retirement System, this very cordial note was addressed to Charlotte school teacher, who was retiring after 22 years of service.

Appropriately enough the amount of the token referred to in the note was not mentioned. Specific reference might have cooled the warmth of the well wished note.

The token was a check for \$6.04.

THIS was the first of the monthly retirement checks which this conscientious and hard working teacher was to receive as her monthly compensation.

Now 73 years old, this teacher, after enjoying 22 years of life in the teaching of youthful Charlotteans, is supposed to live on the amount of her monthly check. Two years ago when her teaching salaries were increased, the retired teachers were gratified and now her monthly check is \$10.03.

When it times weren't so prosperous and prices weren't so high, the \$10.03 this teacher receives each month would be woefully inadequate to provide even the bare essentials of life. And now in these times of inflation, the \$10.03 is hardly enough to meet the teacher's milk bill.

THIS teacher hadn't pinched pennies during the years of her active career and denied herself many other things to meet her Building A obligation, her present state would be far worse. She does own her home.

But the City and County Governments command practically all of her annual retirement income of \$120.00 in taxes.

She does have a roof over her head and so far she's been able to forestall tax foreclosure and dispossess her of her modest home. For additional meager earnings obtained through private tutoring, this little old lady of the classroom would have long been an object of charity.

This one case is typical of hundreds of other teachers in North Carolina who today are forgotten and neglected by the State. They are the forgotten, actual actuaries are the recipients of a pitiful check and a chance and a disgrace to the good name of North Carolina.

Social Security is glibly mouthed today and the

nation's economy is threatened by strikes of coal and steel workers who have laid down their tools because insufficient pensions of at least \$100 a month, are not provided without cost to them.

This teacher who now draws \$10.05 a month made a contribution of 4 per cent of her salary to the retirement fund. Because the system was wrong when the time came for her to retire, her pension, actually computed, was not enough to keep a young man alive.

To give some semblance of the true meaning of Social Security, mention in the law is needed. That falling, some arrangements should be worked out by local school authorities to provide half-way life living for these faithful and aged teachers.

From the standpoint of actuarial calculation financial aid for these widowed past 20 years of age will not have to be extended very long.

If retirement pay could be comforted to a mere \$50 a month, it would be a little more secure and comfortable.

Quote, Unquote

NEED MORE PROOF A Republican has captured a Congressional seat in the 19th district of Pennsylvania.

More than 25 per cent of all the Negro babies born in Wake County during the months of July, August and September arrived without any physician help.

Some Johnny-come-lainly writing to the Atlanta Journal to protest making Stone Mountain a Confederate memorial to remind us of our ignominious defeat in the Civil War.

Like the worker who never got tired working because he always quit before he got tired, folks who are married are a characteristically unhappy married.—Kingsport (Tenn.) Times.

STOCKHOLM, Sweden (AP)—The Swedish bridge and the fishermen in flat-bottomed boats led down the coast, the management of the state has been accused of not having paid the right note to convince the doubting visitor that the positions of the past and present can exist securely side by side.

The backdrop is perfect—the place, the opera, the solid pink building of the Swedish Parliament. This that owner of the old Europe should have gone of its actual course. In contact, is once again a surprise.

As the pale light fades from the sky and the windows in the long facade of the palace as dark as the night, the scene is a dim glow.

The old King, Gustaf V, may be remembered in that great pile, although probably he is at the Summer palace at Drottningholm where he is more peaceful. But last night light can be seen by Stockholm as they hurry home with the evening traffic with the long lines of cars and trams backed up at the traffic lights.

The King is approaching 82. Among his people there is great concern over his health and the extraordinary length of his life. When he returns to Stockholm from his summer vacation in the West, he is more peaceful. But last night light can be seen by Stockholm as they hurry home with the evening traffic with the long lines of cars and trams backed up at the traffic lights.

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Advertisement for Drew Pearson's Merry-Ground Better Income Tax Enforcement Needed. Attorney Bernard Flug in Baltimore, he sent it back with advice that it was a difficult case to prosecute. Again out in Kansas City, Kan., the T-men caught an embezzler, but the man had no money. 1,000 fees received from patients during three years. The Justice Dept. sent the case to D. B. Attorney Lester L. B. back that he did not want to prosecute, because Dr. Heiser was a prominent and successful physician. He is now doing so.