

# THE CHARLOTTE NEWS

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## ONE DOWN, ONE TO GO

**THE OUSTING** of Communist leader Benjamin Davis from the New York City Council eliminates from politics one of the big city's two Kremlin puppets. One yet remains—Representative Vito Marcantonio.

Communist Davis was one of the 12 Red leaders recently convicted of conspiring to teach and advocate the overthrow of the U. S. Government by force. He now faces trial, the last of which was defeated by a coalition candidate representing the Republican, Democrat, and Liberal Parties.

The New York City Council, however, did not wait for his term to expire on Dec. 31. By a 15 to 9 vote, it ruled that Davis had forfeited his membership upon his conviction.

The next step is to consign Mr. Marcantonio to political oblivion. The fiery rabble-rouser has the support of a tightly-organized voting bloc of Negroes and Puerto-

Ricans in Harlem, and it will be difficult to unseat him.

It will not be impossible, however. In recent elections, he has won by pluralities, not by majorities. And there is every reason to believe that another tripartite coalition candidate can do the trick.

An invitation to the Democratic and Republican Parties to join in the move has already been extended by Murray Bowen, New York City chairman of the Liberal Party. Bowen said the other parties that the public would "justifiably resent our failure to unite and thus almost certainly bring about the long overdue retirement from Congress of this Kremlin mouthpiece."

Whether the invitation is accepted depends on the willingness of the two major parties to subjugate some of their differences to the greater common good. The defeat of Marcantonio would seem to be well worth the sacrifice.

## TREND TO SECURITY

**AT THE RISE** of belaboring a topic on which we have commented before, we would like to emphasize once again the unmistakable trend in evidence on all sides toward a broader program of financial security for old age.

It is virtually certain that the Senate, in its forthcoming session, will at least as far as the House did this year in liberalizing Social Security benefits.

Beyond that, the sky is the limit. Already Secretary of Labor Maurice Tobin has urged \$100 a month for all workers over 65. Senator Brewster, a Republican, suggested the other day that his committee be given authority to review existing pension programs. Even the cautious Senator Taft of Ohio has urged a thorough study of a new Federal pension program by the next Congress.

The impetus has largely come in the past few months following the Ford and Bethlehem pension agreements which provide \$100 a month for retired workers over 65.

We have already seen in Washington and California what can happen from the adoption of old-age welfare programs beyond the financial capabilities of the state. What the Congress and the American people must decide in the coming years is how generously the working people can expect to be rewarded for their efforts. The decision is going to be forced by new pressure from industry and labor alike.

## GERMANY RISES AGAIN

**TO UNDERSTAND** the recent liberalization of allied policy toward West Germany, it is necessary to keep in mind two things:

1. The economy of Western Europe can never be fully co-ordinated and strengthened to the maximum degree until West Germany's economy is restored and made fit into the pattern.

2. The military defense of Western Europe is virtually impossible without a strong West Germany.

Because of its key position in the European economy and its juxtaposition as a "buffer" between the military forces of Russia and those of Western Europe, the Germans of Bismarck, the Kaiser, and Hitler, had their hands again rising from the ranks of defeat.

Even the French, who have seen their nation invaded and laid waste by the Germans three times in the past century,

## NOVEMBER HAIL

NINETY-NINE DAYS OUT of a hundred, November sits calmly and quietly in a colorless arch of sky, snuffing a few white clouds around with its feel like a kitten. But the sun, born of twin fires, wears its sighs early and leaves a few dry leaves in the pile in the yard. Or, after sending the sun down its course into the west, weather will pull up big purple quilts of clouds and retire behind them.

Weather, usually, is a doleful thing but it has a portion of personality behind its bland gaze. Like most creatures of good nature, it is often grieved to see blight and death, but we find no solace exists.

Weather, now and then, must prove its existence.

This week, for instance; for one day we really knew weather was around. The day began as any other except for a suggestion of muddiness in the upper regions; the sky was somewhat gloom, a little overcast, but continued to hold.

A few patches of rain fell in sporadic patches. There was an ominous, insatiable hint of thunder beyond the muggy surface of the sky, thunder more felt than heard; it was warm; shopkins and office clerks went to lunch in sweaters.

Then, about mid-afternoon, weather leaped to its hind legs and howled, unbuttoned itself from neck to ankles, turning the sky from gray to sand, howling black and brownish at sand papers in the streets and pasted them to the legs of shoppers. Everyone was hurried.

There, with a tremendous clasp of thunder, weather began teasing long, brittle

inc contribution under Social Security.

It is now in the interest of industry to support bigger Federal Social Security benefits, and thus lighten its own load.

Labor, while pleased with the new private plan, would also prefer Federal pension.

The main point is that payment would be guaranteed in hard times, whereas the private concern might fail or be liquidated. Another is that the worker would be able to transfer from job to job without losing his benefits, and thus retain the mobility which has always been one of the main characteristics of free America.

The cost of a \$100-a-month pension for every person over 65 would be staggering. Senator Taft estimates it would require roughly \$12 billion a year. If such an amount is to be paid out of current earnings of working Americans, as Senator Taft suggests, it would require much more than the present one per cent pay roll deduction and matching employee con-

tribution.

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are beginning to accept the inevitability of this new policy toward Germany. They still fear Germany, but they fear Russia more.

One has yet openly advocated the rearming of West Germany, either with arms from the West or with some sooner or later if the present cold war with Russia continues.

Truth, it is a dismal prospect that should be nurturing the evil power which twice plunged the world into raging combat. It may be, as the experts say, a "calculated risk," but it invokes terrible memories of the past and visions of the future.

There is the slim chance that the Bonn Government is laying the foundations for a democratic, non-militaristic Germany. But that is indeed a slender thread on which to hang the hopes of mankind.

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Here is a home hint. If you happen to get a piece of bubble gum stuck on your clothes at the picture show, you can get it off by rubbing ice over it. The gum will get hard and fall off. If you put warm water on it, your garment will become partially ruined. —*Winnipeg Free Press* (Man.) Weekly.

If they don't quit passing laws to insure security, there won't be any security. After you've squeezed a lemon dry you can't get any more juice out of it by passing laws.—*Lamar (Mo.) Democrat*.

People need diversion. But some of them seem to think they don't need anything else.—*Lamar (Mo.) Democrat*.

Now, I never have—so we're sure you should.—*Pelham (Ga.) Journal*.

arrows of lightning through the sky and loosed a torrent. The wind whipped the white clouds around with its feel like a kitten. It was born of twin fires, for the winds sighs early and leaves a few dry leaves in the pile in the yard. Or, after sending the sun down its course into the west, weather will pull up big purple quilts of clouds and retire behind them.

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## Santa Comes To Germany



Joseph & Stewart Alsop

## Johnson And The Germans

WASHINGTON

**SECRETARY OF DEFENSE** Louis Johnson's statement that "the United States has no intention of rearming Germany" is a frank admission of defeat. But the fact should be noted that Johnson's statement lies in the face of the professional assessments of the Western military experts, including President Truman.

Germany's rearmament has been condemned as a wicked project of the American and British military men. But the fact is that both French general staff chief Georges Rovere and Western

military experts do not agree with him. They

disagree on everything else, agree on purely military grounds that there must be some degree

of rearmament. As the Germans know that they

will grow rather than decrease with time, this

is that the Germans try to make a deal, whatever

to which the French military experts will participate.

The fact is that the question of rearming the Germans is only a part of the larger question of defending the Western world as a whole—including the United States. It is quite obvious that a world in which the Germans are peaceful, while the other European nations are pathetically feeble and the United States is getting its defense program, will be a leading American concern with French concurrence. De Gasparis' view, moreover, presumably reflects the judgment of Marshal Tito and Montgomery's Western union staff.

The fact is that all the Western military chiefs are convinced that the defense of Western Europe is likely to prove enormously difficult in case of war, with the possible exception of France. This convinces them that the defense of Germany itself is totally impossible without German troops. This conviction is shared by the French, who do not believe that the Germans are really sincere in their peace intentions.

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