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AN OLD LAW PLAGUES INDUSTRY

THE trade publication, *Modern Industry*, made a valid point when it observed quite bitterly that:

"Industry spends its time battling generalities—'Socialism', 'bureaucracy', 'waste' — but concentrates too little on fighting for specific objectives. These latter may be less dramatic but they are more attainable."

The specific objection that *Modern Industry* was talking about is the Walsh-Healey Act, a fourteen-year-old hangover from the early days of the New Deal. Today, in the hands of Secretary of Labor Maurice J. Tobin, it is being used to push minimum wages in plants doing government contract work higher than the 75-cent minimum fixed by the Wage-Hour Law.

Walsh-Healey went on the books in June, 1936, a year after the courts had invalidated NRA. Its purpose was to bridge the gap between NRA and the Wage-Hour Law enacted in 1938. But it was never repealed.

The original purpose of Walsh-Healey was to prevent the award of government business to "sweatshops" which could underbid companies with good pay standards. More recently, the application of the law has been broadened through Mr. Tobin's interpretations.

Seventy-seven industries are on the list to be examined in coming months. Already Mr. Tobin has set the minimum wage for the iron and steel industry at $1.23, and established 95 cents for the soap industry.

Modern Industry recommends that the various industries engaged in government contract work bring pressure on Congress to repeal the law if possible, or at least modify it. The magazine adds:

"Through lack of vigilance by industry at large, the potentially disastrous Walsh-Healey situation was allowed to develop. Through co-ordinated effort, industry can effectively fight this instrument of the creeping minimum wage."

LET'S HOPE THE RUMORS ARE FALSE

FOR THE GOOD of the nation and the prospect of world peace it is to be hoped that the rumors concerning the impending resignation of Secretary of State Dean Acheson are without foundation. Secretary Acheson has done his job well. A change at this time might jeopardize all that he has accomplished in the past year.

And what has he accomplished?

The most important thing that he has done, we feel, has been to convert our foreign policy from one of crisis strategy to one of long range global action.

Somehow this Spring this new global diplomacy was born. We saw it at work at the recent Foreign Ministers' Conference in Paris and we will probably see its effects for years to come.

Secretary Acheson has not been solely responsible for the new diplomacy. He has had the help of the President, the Congress and many agencies—Treasury, Defense, Agriculture and Commerce. But Secretary Acheson has been the guiding force behind it.

Secretary Acheson is important to this new concept of diplomacy and the new concept is important to this nation's future.

There has been talk that Secretary Acheson has come to consider himself a political liability to the Administration and is, for that reason, considering leaving the State Department. We believe that Secretary Acheson is one of the most valuable men in the Administration and should not be badgered out of the State Department by such critics as Sen. McCarthy.

ALABAMA REJOINS THE PARTY

IT HAPPENED in Alabama just as everyone expected. In a run-off election for control of the State Democratic Executive Committee, the regular Democrats took five out of seven contested seats. Now they hold a clear majority of 39 on the 72-man committee which controls state party machinery.

States Righters seized the party machinery in 1948, and kept President Truman off the ballot in Alabama. Thus the States Righters were able to deliver the state's electoral votes to Governor Strom Thurmond of South Carolina.

The rebellion was short-lived. Now Alabama is back in the regular Democratic ranks.

We have said it many times before. And at the risk of being tedious, we will say it again today. There is no hope for a States Rights splinter party in the foreseeable future.

Southern Democrats in the Congress wield an influence all out of proportion to their numbers. So far they have been able to rebuff the Truman Administration on those key Fair Deal measures which would be inimical to the South. As long as they can be so effective within the party, there is no reason for a splinter movement.

Both Alabama Senators backed the regular Democrats in their campaign to regain control of the party machinery. The effort has paid off. Now the Alabama States Righters can either rejoin the party and bore from within, or they can join up with the Republicans. In either event, the South will be better off.

FOUR IDAHO INDIANS

THE fate of four drunken Indians who stole a sheep in Idaho would not, ordinarily, concern us. But the fact that each of the four was sentenced to fourteen years — without benefit of counsel—and the added fact that the Association on American Indian Affairs is trying to do something about the sentences does concern us.

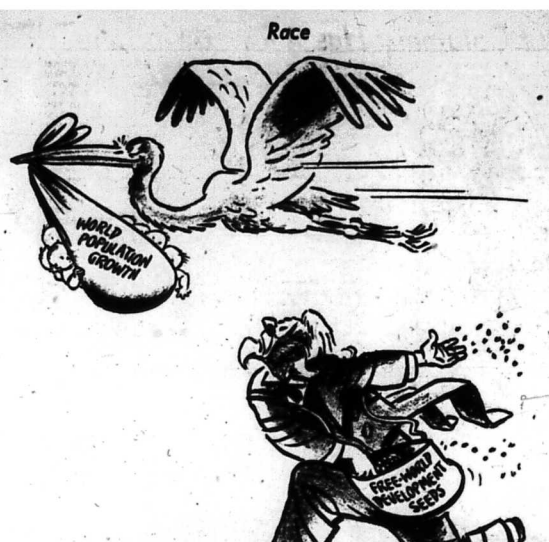
The AAIA figures the Indians, aged from nineteen to 25, were "railroaded". At no time, the organization says, were the youths told how serious the charge against them was. On the other hand, it reports, they were advised by the prosecutor to do without counsel because the judge would be lenient if they pleaded guilty.

The Indians, who picked up the sheep on a highway as a present for the new born child of one of them, had no previous record of wrong-doing. Yet they received maximum sentences.

The Association's brief, filed with the Idaho Supreme Court, asserts that the right to due process of law under the Fourteenth Amendment guarantees the right to assistance of counsel and that that right must be jealously guarded by the courts in cases where the defendants are immature and uneducated and subject to possible racial discrimination.

Thus the Association's fight is not only for four Idaho Indians, but for the fundamental rights of all Americans. The courts, influenced by local feeling or by carelessness, sometimes fail in their duty to mete out justice with impartiality.

The fate of the four Idaho Indians, unimportant as it may seem, is important because they are citizens and because their case calls attention to the importance of equal justice for all citizens.



Collected By Bill Sharpe

TURPENTINE DRIPPINGS

It Was In Her Mind

(Mrs. Theo Davis, Zebulon Record)

My grandmother did not really believe the old superstition that if one threw outdoors combings from their hair, and these hairs were used by birds in building nests, the original owner would suffer from severe headaches; but she quoted it often enough for us to know it stayed in her mind.

The Fisherman

(W. G. Hasel, Pee Dee Advocate)

The confirmed fisherman can always find funds to buy new angling equipment, boats, motors, etc., when he has to put off the doctor or the grocer. When the fish are biting, or he has reason to think they might rise to a lure, he can't think of anything else to do that is more necessary or important.

Reminds me of the group down in Saluda County who were starting out on a seining trip, with a net tied on the side of their old Model T Ford. They saw a fellow busily plowing in his field. One of them remarked: "Look at that d— fool, just plowing like hell in the hot sun and I bet he hasn't a fish in his house."

A fisherman, too, is the most optimistic person in the world. He can go to the lake or stream every morning or afternoon (or both) for a week and not get a nibble, but will start the next week with the same program, always thinking that this is the time they will jump in the boat to get the bait, or that he will have to go behind a tree to bait his hook.

I don't know which is worse, the confirmed fisherman or the gambling addict—but I think fishing is the bigger risk and often the more costly.

Say 'When'

(John Wesley Clay, Winston-Salem Journal)

As a rule I seldom give advice, for usually it is not appreciated and seldom is it followed, but this poor soul struck me in an evil hour. He was seeking a job, and he looked and smelled like the morning after.

I said to him: "Friend, there are two occasions when a man should abstain from drink. One is when he is looking for a job. If a man smells whisky on your breath he will not hire you, for he will suspect you to be unreliable. The other occasion is when you have a job, for the drinker and his job are soon divorced."

The man looked dejected and puzzled. "And when do you expect a man to take a drink?" he asked as he walked off.

Why He Likes Pinehurst

(Southern Pines Pilot)

And it is said that one reason General George Marshall likes to live in Pinehurst is that nobody over there bothers him, or even turns their head to look at him when he walks down the street. Everybody thinks they're just as important as he.

Veep Gets An Earful

(Goldsboro News-Argus)

Clifton Britton and a Marine officer were in his compartment last Saturday morning on a much overdue train enroute to Baltimore. Spying a Greenville paper heading about VP Barkley being in Greenville, the conversation turned to him. During the course of it, the talkers wondered orally and loudly how he ever managed to capture the heart of the lovely young widow he married, with variations on the subject, all dealing with the Veep. A knock on the door preceded a request for softer talk, since the folks in the next compartment were resting.

Next morning, Britton stuck his head out to see where the train was, and a much-lathered face did likewise from the next compartment, with a tight oath about the train being late—and delaying him for an important committee meeting in Washington. You know by now that it couldn't be anyone else but the Vice-President.

Male And Female

(Charity & Children)

Two children were talking. "Know how to tell a lady worm from a gentleman worm?" asked one.

"Oh, sure," said the other. "You've heard that a worm turns. Well, if it turns without putting its hand out, it's a lady worm."

Election Year Hazard

(Bladen Journal)

Police Chief Slater Haire stopped a motorist the other day for not giving arm signals when making a turn. . . . He was told that the man was scared to make the proper arm signal because he was afraid some candidate for office would grab it and shake it off . . .

AP Prefers Blondes

(Montgomery Herald)

Whenever the Associated Press sends out a story about the fair sex it is very careful to announce and continually repeat the fact if it is a fact, that she is a red head, or a blonde, as the case may be. If the fortunate or unfortunate lady is a brunette nothing is said about that. Clearly the AP prefers red heads and blondes.

Sabotage

(Pete Ivey, Twin City Sentinel)

A man who sings in the choir at a local church says he firmly disagrees with the attitude of the Ministers' Association in asking candidates for public office how they stand on the question of legalized liquor — and local option elections.

"I don't know that I will come out openly and challenge the politicking of the ministers," he said, "but I am sorely tempted to sing off key next Sunday."

If a congregation hears a sour note coming from a local choir next Sunday, it may be sabotage.

Nickel, Goodbye!

(Beatrice Cobb, Morganton News-Herald)

The lowly nickel, which once had a variety of uses, including dropping into the collection plate on Sundays, seems to be gradually losing ground to the dime. It was reported from New York last week that telephone boxes there, formerly operated for local calls by a nickel, now require a dime, following a like increase already made in subway fares. About the only things I can think of at the moment, that still sell for 5 cents are bottled Coca-Cola, chewing gum and practically all newspapers. The majority of candy bars met rising costs by decreasing the size to keep the price at a nickel. On the contrary the average newspaper has increased in size and still retails for the same price.

U. S. Not Likely To Adopt Real Civil Defense Plan

By STEWART ALSOP

WASHINGTON

NO ONE paid much attention to an announcement which emanated recently from Moscow to the effect that the five-year plan for the dispersion of Soviet industry is four-fifths completed. Russian five-year plans are very old stuff by now. But this particular announcement was not without interest. For the Soviet dispersion plan is primarily intended sharply to reduce Soviet vulnerability to atomic attack.

Put this fact together with another fact—that whether or not war is probable, war is certainly possible. A rather obvious question then springs to mind. What is the United States doing to reduce American vulnerability to atomic attack?

After all, the Soviets do have the atom bomb, and the means of delivering nuclear weapons to American targets. Therefore the answer to the question above should be of interest, perhaps especially to the inhabitants of the eleven "unsafe" cities, considered prime targets for atomic attack—Boston, New York, Philadelphia, Baltimore, Washington, Detroit, Cleveland, Pittsburgh, Chicago, St. Louis and Los Angeles.

The answer to the question appears to be very simple —"Nothing."

An important civil-defense plan was, to be sure, filed with the Atomic Energy Commission about a year ago, but the AEC has refused to release it. Rather lethargic hearings have been held before the Joint Committee on Atomic Energy. The National Security Resources Board, which is being brought back from the dead by its new chief, Stuart Symington, has promised plans in the future. Yet the word "nothing" accurately describes what has actually been done to reduce American vulnerability to an atomic strike.

All the experts who have really studied the problem of civil defense in an atomic war have reached the same conclusion (with which the Soviet experts apparently agree). This is that dispersion of population and industries, so that no one bomb can have a destructively crippling effect, is the only real answer to atomic bombardment.

It is true that very deep shelters might be useful. It is interesting, for example, that a number of Japanese were in an ordinary concrete shelter almost directly below the explosion point of the Hiroshima bomb. These Japanese survived, while others, unprotected, died a mile or more from the center of the blast.

Yet shelters would be at best a palliative. As for other conventional civil defense measures—fire watchers, first aid stations, and the rest—these would be, in the words of one expert, "like trying to cure cancer with an aspirin tablet." Moreover, only dispersion will afford any protection to American industry, which means to the American war potential.

Yet all estimates of the cost of any serious dispersion program are astronomical. To transform every American city into the civil defense expert's ideal—the dispersed "strip city" — would mean changing the whole face of America, and this is of course silly. A less ambitious program, designed to subsidize and encourage the already existing tendency towards decentralization of industry, has been put forward by some of the experts. This would gradually but effectively decrease American vulnerability over a period of years.

Yet one reason why no such program is now being seriously considered can be found in a single sentence in an article by Dr. Ralph Lapp, nuclear physicist and civil defense expert: "Any real civil defense program will require an organization comparable in authority and in annual budget appropriations to the national military establishments" — in other words, a real program would cost around $14,000,000,000 a year. Another reason may be found in this question: "Is Senator Brien McMahon of Connecticut going to sponsor a program to encourage the aircraft industry to leave Hartford?"

Congress Bombarded From Both Sides On Rent Issue

(By CONGRESSIONAL QUARTERLY)

WASHINGTON

WITH A JUNE 30 deadline fast approaching on the question of whether or not to extend Federal rent controls, Congress is receiving a barrage of testimony, pro and con.

A Congressional Quarterly study of the testimony and assorted requests shows:

1. Generally, veterans, labor, tenants and consumer groups are joining the Office of the Housing Expediter in urging continuance of controls.

2. Generally, property and real estate groups are opposed to extension of the law.

3. Municipal officials are split on the question.

Wheels already are in motion to provide the Congressional answer, with a House vote expected sometime in the next few days. The House will consider a bill by Chairman Brent Spence (D-Ky.) of its Banking and Currency Committee. The Spence measure, approved by his Committee 13-4, provides for outright extension of Federal rent control until Jan. 1, 1951. Rent controls would end automatically on that date in all communities which do not decide, by local option, to continue them until June 30, 1951.

The House May 23 knocked down one move to provide for immediate liquidation of the Office of the Housing Expediter (OHE), but at the same time didn't provide OHE with as much money as it wanted for operations until June 30 of this year.

OHE had asked for a deficiency appropriation of $800,000. The House voted $600,000. But it rejected, by a 36-62 vote a proposal that $300,000 of the allocation be earmarked for liquidation of OHE. Earlier this year, and also in 1949 Congress did not provide OHE nearly the funds it asked, and subsequent reductions in personnel have resulted. Tighe E. Woods, Housing Expediter, has complained that his force is inadequate to properly enforce the law.

Rent controls first were established in March, 1942, and at their peak in November, 1946, there were 16,000,000 units under Federal ceilings. Decontrols have been speeded up in the past year to where there were 11,000,000 units under controls April 1 and about 8,375,000 expected by the end of June.

Supporters of continued controls advance these major arguments:

(1) Rents would rise "intolerably;" (2) housing in many areas already is too tight, and removal of controls would accentuate the problem; (3) demands for wage increases would be intensified, with increased rentals; (4) adequate provision already is made for removal of controls, where justified; (5) decontrol should be done on an orderly basis, not at one plunge, to avoid confusion.

Supporters of decontrol advance these major arguments:

(1) If there are places where controls still are needed they can be handled by local agencies; (2) controls have slowed private investment in and construction of rental units; (3) decontrol would unfreeze many rental units where owners now don't stand to make enough to encourage them to rent; (4) rents rise only "moderately" when decontrolled; (5) rent control is a discrimination against owners of property, since prices have been allowed to rise in most other fields.

The Bureau of Labor Statistics has made two recent surveys on how decontrol has worked in 12 cities. The BLS studies concluded:

1. Rents on all units rose from three per cent in Oklahoma City to 21 per cent in Beverly Hills, Calif. Landlords in the former city boosted rents on 17 per cent of the total units, and in the latter city on 64 per cent of the total units available.

2. On units receiving boosts, the increases ranged from 16 per cent in Salt Lake City to 40.9 per cent in Newport News.

The National Association of Real Estate Boards commented that the median average increase in the cities surveyed was 10.5 per cent. The NAREB also made a survey of 100 decontrolled cities and said it showed a median overall rent increase of only six per cent, and unchanged rents for 75 per cent of tenants.

From The New York Times

NORTH CAROLINA'S PRIMARY

NORTH CAROLINA'S Democratic primary campaign in which Senator Frank P. Graham led the field by a wide margin—but not by the clear majority needed to win the nomination—posed in one of the most progressive Southern states the issue of conservatism against the political liberalism Mr. Graham votes in Chapel Hill, seat of the University of North Carolina, which he headed for nineteen years and which for two decades has been leading the South in regional self-examination. He has been not only one of the South's most prominent educators but also one of its most versatile public servants. He was high in the counsels of the Roosevelt Administration and served on President Truman's Civil Rights Commission. In the campaign just ended he dissented from the Brannan Plan and from the compulsory features of the Fair Employment Practice Act, but there was no question that he represented the "Fair Deal" in the primary and that he bore the brunt of the opposition to everything for which it stands to Southern conservatives.

It is more important to the South, and its place in the regional life of the nation, that Senator Graham seems to have turned back a resurgent tide of race prejudice. The picture of race relations in North Carolina has been one of enlightenment and leadership almost unmatched in the South. The present state administration pledged itself to see that "the minority race has a fair opportunity," and has been keeping the pledge. Yet Senator Graham's connection with the Civil Rights Commission and the F. E. P. C. proposal led an element of his opposition to parade old shibboleths that plagued the South when the tide of race prejudice was running high.

That North Carolina has stood by its progressivism and the position of primacy it has won in the educational renaissance that has been so marked in the South in recent years is the significant outcome of the North Carolina primary. A defeat of Senator Graham would—because of the ghosts that stalked his campaign—have given encouragement to the forces of reaction in the South that would like to turn toward splinter party movements rather than support a Democratic party in the region that is willing to align itself with social forces facing race relations squarely rather than obliquely.

Even if the census enumerator missed you, you are still here, and count with your friends.—*Elizabethtown (Ky.) News.*

Drew Pearson's Merry-Go-Round

President Pushed Amerasia Case Inquiry

JIM McINERNY, the assistant Attorney General, was testifying in secret before the Tydings committee regarding the stolen documents in the Amerasia case.

McInerny now in charge of the Justice Dept.'s criminal division handled the Amerasia prosecution when he had a lower position in the Justice Dept. five years ago. And the man who cross-examined him, Senate Committee Counsel Ed Morgan, once worked in the FBI as a top expert on Communists. Here is how each other well:

"Jim," asked Morgan, "did anyone ever bring any pressure on you regarding these people who were indicted in the Amerasia case?"

"Yes," replied McInerny.

Republican Senators pricked up their ears. This was just what they had been looking for. The Scripps-Howard newspaper chain, now sued for libel by one of the Amerasia ex-defendants, has been claiming that political pressure caused the Justice Dept. to drop the case.

"Where did the pressure come from?" continued Morgan.

"The White House," replied McInerny.

Republican Senators were all smiles. Democratic Senators looked worried.

"Who in the White House?" pressed Morgan.

"The President," said the tight-lipped McInerny, apparently not willing to volunteer anything unless asked.

"What did the President say?" asked Morgan. By this time both Democrat and Republican Senators were almost holding their breath.

"The President called me on the phone," said McInerny, "and said, 'Don't let anything stop you from sending those bums to jail.'"

The Senators relaxed. The Republicans looked disappointed. But they knew, if for no other reason than because they were familiar with the President's mule-driver language, that McInerny was telling the truth.

Why Case Was Dropped

The real story of why McInerny could not carry out the President's orders is now fairly well understood—namely, because OSS and FBI men searched the Amerasia office and Emmanuel Larsen's apartment without a warrant, thereby violating the 4th amendment.

However, the slow-speaking McInerny, a Catholic, conscientious and the man of Ireland written all over his face, gave a graphic account during his first closed-door session with the Senators. He told, among other things, how he had persuaded Judge James Proctor to hold special court on Saturday, Sept. 29, 1945, in order to handle the Amerasia case.

At first Judge Proctor had demurred at holding court on Saturday. But the reason for the special session, McInerny explained to Senators, was because one defendant, Larsen, had discovered the FBI illegally entered his apartment, had filed a motion to dismiss, and McInerny feared other defendants would get wise and also move to dismiss.

Therefore, he had to act fast.

The chief defendant, Philip Jaffe, had hinted that he might plead "guilty." So McInerny immediately got hold of his attorney and put across an agreement that the Justice Dept. would accept a fine if Jaffe would plead guilty. So McInerny said he knew that if Jaffe's lawyer and Larsen's lawyer had a chance to confer and Jaffee learned about the illegal search, the Government would not be able to convict anyone.

Therefore he phoned the District of Columbia Clerk of the Court and asked him to withhold from the press Larsen's motion to dismiss, for fear Jaffe would hear about it. This was on Friday.

The clerk replied that once a court paper is filed, it becomes a public record, and that three newsmen were demanding the Larsen motion already.

Fortunately, only a small squib about the case appeared in The Washington Star on Friday afternoon. By Saturday morning, however, Jaffe's attorney realized that the entire prosecution was about to collapse, and grumbled about going through with this agreement to plead Jaffe "guilty." However, he finally did so. Judge Proctor fined him $2,500.

McInerny told the Senators that instead of deserving criticism he thought the Justice Dept. had done pretty well to get even two defendants fined, instead of having the entire case blow up in its face.

Newspaper Chain Tactics

ONE interesting fact about the Amerasia case is that the illegal search by the OSS and FBI has been well known to the Scripps-Howard newspaper chain for some time. However, when the American Newspaper Editors met here April 28, Roy Howard, head of the chain, instructed his editors to stage a steady campaign on the Amerasia case and for Senator McCarthy.

Since then, regardless of the feelings of individual editors, the Scripps-Howard papers have published a regular diet of one feature story a day plus several editorials a week—meanwhile withholding from the public the fact that the case could not possibly have stood up in court.

Significantly, when the Senate Lobbying Committee, under then Senator Hugh Black of Alabama, seized Hearst newspaper files in the early days of the Roosevelt Administration, the same Scripps-Howard newspapers were among the loudest to condemn that seizure—even though Senate agents were armed with subpoenas. It was the view of Scripps-Howard editors at that time that the newspapers of the United States had a great deal to lose if their files, correspondence, and morgues could be examined or seized by Government agents even when they carried subpoenas and the seizure was done publicly.

Today these same editors have thrown the weight of eighteen newspapers behind the justification of a secret raid on a magazine, Amerasia, where the Government agents were armed with warrants.

Privately, some of the editors admit that their boss Roy Howard is making a big mistake.

Illegal search and seizure was so ruthlessly practiced by the British in revolutionary days that it was banned by the Founding Fathers in the 4th amendment to the Constitution. But if it ever comes back to the U.S.A., some editors fear that certain occupants of the White House would like nothing better than raiding newspapers.

After all, for seventeen long years, the White House had had no reason to love most of the nation's editors and publishers.