THE CHARLOTTE NEWS

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SATURDAY, MAY 3, 1952

ECONOMIC WARFARE WITH OUR ALLIES

DURING the post-war years a majority of persons on both sides of the Atlantic have supported the idea of joint military defense, or at least supported governments that worked for this goal. To a lesser degree the political and economic policies of the Atlantic Pact countries have been co-ordinated. But now a series of seemingly minor demands for "protection" of various U. S. products, by increasing import tariff on similar foreign products, has developed into a trend that could have serious and far-reaching consequences.

On the whole, the United States during the past two decades has been a strong advocate of low tariffs. We initiated reciprocal trade agreements, took the lead in forming the International Trade Organization and promoted the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade with Western Europe. A primary aim of the Marshall Plan was to enable Europe to pay its own way. We particularly urged Europe to sell for dollars, which are scarce most places except in the U. S.

On the debit side, however, we did not join the ITO, and have hiked tariffs through the escape clause in our reciprocal trade law. We unilaterally and in violation of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade slapped quotas on imports of cheese and milk products. This seriously impaired the dollar-earning capacity of Italy, the Netherlands and the Scandinavian countries, which had optimistically been gearing their sales and production techniques to U. S. markets. We still have various "Buy American" laws in force, which require the U. S. Government to buy domestic goods unless the same foreign product is 25 per cent cheaper.

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Under the reciprocal trade agreement's escape clause the Tariff Commission is authorized to raise duties if it finds that the domestic manufacturer has been seriously injured by competition. A year ago two applications for such relief were on the Commission's books. Now there are sixteen. The products for which manufacturers and producers seek protection include motorcycles, bicycles, wines, pottery, "blue cheese", tobacco, pipes, wood screws, watches, dried figs, candied cherries, olive oil, hats and almonds. Reportedly textile manufacturers and machine tool and sewing machine manufacturers are considering asking for similar protection.

One of the effects of tariff increases already granted has been the expected—retaliation. Last week the Belgian Government withdrew tariff concessions on United States industrial wax, in retaliation for our increase in duties on furs used in hat manufacture. The Italian Government has protested the increasing obstacles in the path of getting dollar-earning exports. Ten countries have already protested U. S. cheese restrictions. The British Government, in a recent memorandum, noted that "British exporters are perturbed by the mounting evidence that any marked success in selling their goods in the United States will be countered by applications from United States industry for further protection and the fear that at least some of these applications will be granted." Wednesday the Canadian Minister of Finance told the U. S. Chamber of Commerce convention of a "growing apprehension among Canadian producers about some signs of a resurgence of protectionism in the United States."

Thus in case after case the effectiveness of the billions of dollars in foreign aid that we have spent abroad, much of it to enable recipient countries to produce what they are economically suited to produce, is diminished. The American consumer is hurt. He pays high prices for domestic products and cannot receive the imported counterparts, which he may prefer and which would be cheaper. And this protectionist drive, coming at a time when the Soviet Union is making a major attempt to break the economic front of the free world by offering vast markets for Western products in return for large quantities of goods from the Soviet bloc, is having its effect. About two weeks ago, for example, West Germany's parliamentary foreign policy committee demanded restoration of Soviet-bloc trade with West Germany.

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One of several experienced U. S. correspondents in Europe who have expressed concern over our trade policy, Michael Hoffman of *The New York Times*, perhaps overstates the case, but his opinion is worth passing on. Writes Mr. Hoffman:

"The ultimate casualties of the United States' apparently deep-seated unwillingness to permit competition when it involves competition across frontiers are likely to be the whole of the United States sponsored commercial policy for the Western world and the institution of private enterprise in much of Western Europe."

Secretary of State Acheson has strongly opposed restrictive tariffs, stressing the impact of the Kremlin's trade drive, which if successful could weaken the West's embargo on strategic shipments to Communist nations. Pressure for further trade restrictions comes chiefly from producer and manufacturing organizations and Congressmen to whom support of such changes means votes.

Surely one of the main factors in the growth and strength of the U. S. economy is the free flow of goods between states. This makes for cheaper consumer prices than tariff barriers allow. It makes sense, and it is time to apply some of that interstate commercial sense to international trade. That of course presents political and economic problems at home. The benefits of large volumes of imports are diffused throughout the country, while relaxation of quotas and tariffs hits hard a particular industry or community.

Business Week, in urging more liberal trade policies, has noted this problem of damage to a particular group, and believes "the question may properly be raised whether the alleviation of such injury is not a national responsibility." It does seem time for some fresh thinking on this and the whole problem of tariffs. Economic warfare with our allies is not economical, and could be dangerous.

PROTECTOR OF THE GOOD EARTH

FOR NEARLY 50 years, North Carolina's Dr. Hugh H. Bennett championed soil conservation from his high post in the U. S. Department of Agriculture. Now he has retired to a well-earned rest.

When the records of U. S. twentieth century history are all in, Dr. Bennett's contribution may well rank alongside those of men of greater public acclaim. He was one of the first to recognize that the vast soil resources of this great continent were not unlimited, that a steadily increasing population and a growing industrial base demanded intelligent care and use of the soil. And he foresaw more clearly than others that depletion of forests, overgrazing of pasture land, and careless farming practices would destroy the rain-absorbing cover of the earth, leaving it open to rain and wind erosion and endangering cities built along the banks of flooding rivers.

Elsewhere on today's editorial page is a report from the new nation of Israel on what is being done there by another great American conservationist, Dr. W. C. Lowdermilk, to reclaim barren, wasted soil and make it productive once again. In Israel, the job is one of reclamation. In the United States, fortunately, it is still a task of conservation.

Much needs to be done if the nation is to avoid the fate predicted in Dr. Lowdermilk's "11th Commandment"—"If any shall fail in this stewardship of the land, thy fruitful fields shall become sterile, stony ground or wasting gullies and thy descendants shall decrease and live in poverty or perish from the face of the earth".

Thanks to Hugh Bennett, the job ahead is not so large as it might have been had his wise counsel not been available. He has shown the way, if we but have the vision and the determination to follow it.

MAY THE GYPSIES ROAM AGAIN

GYPSIES, like many of us, do not particularly care to work. But they take their conviction more seriously than do most people. And for centuries, in the Old World and the New, these gay, dark-eyed sons and daughters of the Romany have wandered. During the day they have engaged in the professions they like well and love—tinkering, fortune-telling, trading horses, collecting goods where they are to be found and dispensing them to those persons who disregard the old free enterprise rule of *caveat emptor*. And in the evening, as they gather in make-shift camps, the haunting melodies of their violins, which moved Franz Liszt to write his Hungarian rhapsodies and inspired Johann Strauss' *Gypsy Baron*, tear at the soul of the passerby, urging him to cast off his bonds and join in the carefree life of the open road.

Because gypsies do not care about work, because they believe in exceedingly free enterprise, they are being forced to become "useful members of the Soviet society", according to reports reaching Vienna from Hungary. They are being placed in factories, and their sparkling-eyed children sent to school. Obviously they are not showing much enthusiasm for this dreary, commonplace life. Some gypsies were allotted farms, from which they wandered. No Stakhanovites, these gypsies, they have set no record norms in factory production. They would rather be moving through the countryside, or wandering through a dimly-lit cafe, replete with Tokay and young love, drawing from the vibrant strings of their violins the strains of *Golden Earrings* and other gypsy tunes with which their ancestors have fostered love and happiness along the Danube for centuries.

There is a little of the gypsy in all persons. It is the force that beckons to us from seemingly greener pastures. It is the force that compels some of us to sometimes put aside the cares and commitments of everyday affairs, and live for a time on love and laughter, letting the world go by.

Perhaps the gypsies will reluctantly put aside their cards and violins to pick up the hammer and the sickle. But not for long, for the rigid restraints of a completely ordered existence will hold least of all these nomads from the Hungarian plain. May their return to the life they love be rapid, so we may follow them, if vicariously, as they trod laughing down the roaming road.

'Look Out—Here's Another 'Peace' Demonstration'

People's Platform

Letters should be brief. The writers name and address must be given, but may be withheld from publication in the discretion of the Editor. The News reserves the right to condense.

Where Law Ends Tyranny Begins

PITTSBORO

Editors, THE NEWS:

YOUR editorial of the 28th inst., under the caption "A Repugnant Concept" does not express the concern for constitutional government that the current situation warrants, as I see it. We have come a long way and that fast in our disregard for laws, constitutions, traditions and the institutions of our country. Let's let the record speak.

In 1914 on Oct. 8 the act creating the Federal Trade Commission went into effect. It provided for a bi-partisan commission, with the provision that not more than three members of the five should be from any political party. Mr. Wilson appointed the first Commission, three Democrats and two Republicans. The act provided further that the terms should be of seven years, but that the first members should be of three, four, five, six and seven years, with the limitation that in case of a vacancy it should be filled for the unexpired term only. Thus the Commission membership was staggered.

The political personnel remained the same until the Republicans came into power in '21 when the ratio was changed as soon as expirations permitted. Roosevelt found on the Commission three Republicans and two Democrats when he came into office in '33. But he elected not to await the expiration of the term of a Republican member, and on July 25, 1933, he asked Mr. William E. Humphrey to resign on the ground "that the aims and purposes of the Administration with respect to the Commission can be carried on most effectively with personnel of my own selection," but disclaimed any reflection on the Commissioner personally or upon his services.

The act creating the Commission provided that a member could be removed only upon charges sustained or by impeachment. Mr. Humphrey asked for time for consideration. On Aug. 31, 1933, Mr. Roosevelt demanded the Commissioner's resignation, and, when the same was not forth coming, he fired him on Oct. 7, 1933. The commissioner filed a claim against the Government for his salary, but died, some claimed, of humiliation, soon thereafter.

But his estate pressed the claim, and on May 7, 1935, the U. S. Supreme Court handed down a unanimous opinion sustaining the claim. Two days later came the "blast" against the Court, and for two years thereafter there was waged one of the bitterest fights in our history against an attempt to "pack" the Court. Mr. Roosevelt lost the fight, but nature enabled him to get his Court, with the result that he disregarded the custom of a mixed political personnel and representation of a cross-section of the country in the membership of the Court, and especially in view of the fact that his predecessor had appointed a great Democratic jurist in the person of Judge Cardozo of the New York Court to the U. S. Supreme Court.

On July 6, 1935, Mr. Roosevelt wrote the chairman of the legislative committee handling the Guffey-Snyder Coal Bill: "I hope your committee will not permit any doubt as to the constitutionality, however reasonable, to block the suggested legislation."

On March 4, 1933, Mr. Roosevelt took the following oath of office: "I, Franklin Delano Roosevelt, do solemnly swear that I will faithfully execute the office of the President of the United States and will, to the best of my ability, preserve, protect and defend the Constitution of the United States, so help me God."

Of course, he had no respect for the traditions of our country respecting the two-term limitation as to the Presidency, but, in fact, permitted the use of himself by the party leaders to win the fourth election when both he and they knew he was a dead man in substance though not in form.

In the face of this record, why should Mr. Truman take out time to get the Congress to adopt a war resolution before plunging this country into war in Korea, one that we can neither win nor conclude? Nor is it difficult for him to understand, rather, believe he has "inherent power" to do what he wishes to do with respect to seizing the steel industry of the country.

The Federal Government is one of limited and defined sovereignty, without even the police power, as such, or so the U. S. Supreme Court has said on almost countless occasions. In short, the whole Federal set-up is a creature of the U. S. Constitution, and to argue that any branch thereof is above and beyond this document is absurd, in my thinking. As to seizure of the press and television, frankly, I think Mr. Truman was just caught off guard at his press conference and did not intend to make any such contention. Anyway, the first Amendment to the Constitution is too obvious for anyone other than a pure "nut" to make such a claim.

But after all mitigating or extenuating circumstances are considered, the foregoing record is one indicating calculated disregard for government by law as against personal whim and caprice. Such must be checked and now or we will soon find that we are without the semblance of freedom. Yes, Mr. Editors, the record is more than one involving "repugnant concepts"; it involves all for us and those to come after us. Where law ends tyranny begins.

— JOHN W. HESTER

Quote, Unquote

An incinerator went on the blink and the government couldn't get rid of $2 million in old bills. Have they tried calling in some air base contractors? — **Fort Myers News-Press.**

As the camel is the only known animal that can close its nostrils at will*, it may be adopted as the party symbol in an election era of large and recurring amebis.

*Will is not a candidate. — **Nashville (Tenn.) Banner.**

The young husband brought his boss home for dinner, only to have his wife greet the guest enthusiastically, "Oh, it's so nice to meet you, Mr. Legree. My husband speaks of you so often." — **Lamar (Mo.) Democrat.**

Soil Conservation The Key To Mankind's Long-Range Hopes

By C. A. McKNIGHT
Editor, The News

JERUSALEM

THROUGHOUT the Middle East are ruins of great civilizations that flourished and then died—mute reminders of mankind's inability to fashion a peaceful, orderly ascent to the good life.

Doleful though these ruins may be, they are not so tragic as the ruinous wastage of the land through a carelessness and thoughtlessness that is nothing short of criminal.

Nowhere is the great tragedy etched more vividly than upon the barren hills of Palestine. In Jordan and in the new nation of Israel, the craggy limestone ridges gleam in the sunlight. Once covered with trees, they stand bare of foliage. Men cut away the trees. They turned their sheep and goats on the scrub grass. Finally there was nothing left to hold the soil, and it washed down into the valleys and into the seas through the deep gullies that mar the face of the land like great gashes.

Top soil will never be restored in vast areas of Israel and Jordan. It is gone — forever.

But there are other huge areas where the battle is not lost — where intelligence and diligence and common sense can be applied to hold the remaining soil, enrich it, and make it productive once more.

LOWDERMILK HELPING

If the fight is won, it will be won by men who have the same dedication as Walter Clay Lowdermilk, famed U. S. author and conservationist, who is in Israel as a representative of the Food and Agricultural Organization to show the Israelis how to revitalize their soil and develop a thriving agriculture.

Dr. Lowdermilk is one of the world's top authorities on soil conservation. He has spent 30 years studying the use of land in 38 countries. He is a big man, with twinkling eyes and a soft voice. But he speaks with quiet authority when he says:

"Mankind's biggest problem today is to work out a lasting adjustment with the good earth. Thirty years of studying land use have led me to the conclusion that the condition of the land becomes in time a measure of the success of a government—of its policies, economic program, system of education, of the content of its religion and the culture of its people—a measure spread out for all to see that cannot be hidden.

"There is something lacking in our theology that will countenance the wasting of the good earth out from under the people. The long range hope for humanity depends on the sustained use of the good earth."

Dr. Lowdermilk is supervising a soil survey of Israel to find out what can be done and where to make the land productive again. He cited some vivid examples of erosion. One — an old Roman bridge in a valley near Lydda is covered by fifteen to twenty feet of top soil that once lay on the slopes of the hills.

And between Jerusalem and Tel Aviv, we saw the results of some Lowdermilk-directed experiments on land previously thought to be useless. Irrigation and crop rotation have produced lush growths of various crops — proof that intelligence and enterprise can still make an asset out of a liability.

Dr. Lowdermilk finds Israel inherited from a careless past "one of the most exciting places in the world today," because of the work in soil conservation and reclamation. "Here they cannot afford to be careless," he said in predicting that the dire necessity of bolstering Israel's economy, the intelligence of the Israel farmers, and a national willingness to work hard will win the great battle.

The soil reclamation program is taking many forms. Millions of seedlings have been set out wherever there is enough soil for a tree to take root. New and modern methods of terracing have been introduced. The bottoms of the wadis where rainfall rushes away to the sea are being sown with grass. Plans are under way for dams to catch and hold the heavy rains of the Winter season. In an area that suffers from long dry spells, everything possible must be done to conserve and use every drop of rain.

To the south, in the sun-baked Negev that begins as scrub grass and winds up as sandy desert, the Israelis are extending their agricultural frontier—foot by foot, it seems at places. Pipelines are stretching south in ever increasing numbers to carry water for irrigation, and more ambitious schemes are being talked to transfer water in huge volume from the northern portion of the country. Near Beersheba, cultivated lands lie side by side with desert sand, and they are continually encroaching further.

To one who has seen the rich top soil of the Carolinas wash away down the rivers and to the sea, the battle in Israel points up a moral. It is this:

The people of the United States don't know how fortunate they are to have so much good soil, despite their own carelessness in cutting away the forests and letting the land was away. But Americans have been treating their soil as an expendable luxury instead of the necessity that it is now and will be in the future.

To Americans, as to the people of the barren Middle East, Dr. Lowdermilk's "11th Commandment" has an acute and pertinent meaning:

"Thou shalt inherit the holy earth as a faithful steward, conserving its resources and productivity from generation to generation. Thou shalt safe-guard thy fields from soil erosion, thy living waters from drying up, thy forests from desolation, and protect the hills from over-grazing by the herds so that thy descendants shall have abundance forever. If any shall fail in this stewardship of the land, thy fruitful fields shall become sterile, stony ground or wasting gullies and thy descendants shall decrease and live in poverty or perish from the face of the earth."

Emancipated, Women Reap The Fruit Of Equality--Ulcers

By ROBERT C. RUARK

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M.—

ONE OF THE more curious aspects of our times, medically, is the appearance of the gastric ulcer among the ladies of the land. This was a medical rarity until recent years, but today the incidence of the ulcer among the gals just about rivals its occurrence among the men.

The basic explanation of the everyday ulcer is that a nervous condition causes a definite physiological reaction resulting in ulceration of the tummy. Its more common causes are strain, tension, and worry, and the man with the nervous hole in his head also winds up with a perforated center section.

Ulcers appeared in all professions, but most in those that stressed high nervous tension. As the 20th Century stepped up its living tempo, the incidence of ulcers climbed. But not until just recently did dames have 'em.

This tells me something. This tells me that the females have finally fretted themselves into nearly complete equality with menfolks, and now they, too, own the proud badge of accomplishment — a duodenal ulcer. Oh, boy, Mommy's got a better ulcer than Daddy has, and she didn't even have to kiss her elbow to achieve it.

A distinguished physician-surgeon whom I positively will not identify, in order to protect him at home, tells me that the female has just reaped the penalty of emancipation.

"In my mother's time," says he, "the women did not consciously think in terms of active competition in a masculine world. She was not generally engaged in commerce. She was not running for political office. Apart from a little sentimental poetry, she did not concern herself overmuch with the arts. She did not compete."

Ah, well. You have stolen our trousers and you smoke our cigars. You run our businesses and you spend our money, and you tell us what to do in terms of you. It is meet and fitting that you should pay the penalty for success. Pass the crackers and milk to Mummy, son, and tell her to wear her new triumph in good health.

Drew Pearson's Merry-Go-Round

Wilson Flays Labor Leaders

WASHINGTON

EX-DEFENSE Mobilizer Wilson, testifying before the Senate Banking and Currency Committee at the height of the steel crisis, let loose a fiery tirade at CIO President Phil Murray. It was so hot that even though the Senators were sitting in closed session, he asked the stenographer not to record it.

Senator Fulbright of Arkansas touched off the Wilson blast by inquiring about certain amendments to the bill extending stabilization controls. Asking that his answer be off-the-record, Wilson replied:

"The chief situation you should consider is the growing control of labor over this country.

"I am not talking about the rank-and-file of labor," Wilson continued, "but about their leaders.

"A few men, a handful of labor leaders, have the power to shut down this country," said the former head of General Electric in icy tones.

"One man," he continued, referring to Murray, "has the power to shut down not only steel, but aluminum, copper—all the metals industries.

"We talk about the importance of competition in the steel industry," concluded Wilson, "but here is one man, one labor leader, who has the power to shut down the entire metals industry."

"Is there any use," asked Senator Fulbright, "in having the Government try to control labor, since labor is tending to control the Government?"

Wilson declined to answer.

Note—Wilson tangled with labor leaders—both the CIO and AFL—when he first came to Washington as Defense Mobilizer and junked the plan for a defense advisory board. During World War II, an advisory board on which was represented labor, farm groups, the public and business sat under the chairmanship of the late O. Max Gardner of North Carolina in order to advise the Government on mobilization. Wilson ditched this idea, ignored labor advisers and got the CIO and AFL fighting mad. They have never warmed up to him since.

Price Protector

BEN Fairless, son of a coal miner and now president of U. S. Steel, largest steel corporation in the world, was talking to Ellis Arnall, ex-Governor of Georgia, now Price Administrator.

"Ben," said Governor Arnall, "how many shares of U. S. Steel stock do you have?"

"A thousand shares," replied the head of the steel company.

"What! Only a thousand! You're a piker," replied Arnall. "You mean to say that you're running this thing on only a thousand shares? Why, I've got almost that many various steel shares myself, and I'm battling on the other side—for the public."

Arnall has been the toughest man the steel companies have had to deal with in demanding that there be no increase in the price of steel. It was Charley Wilson's original idea that the wage boost for steelworkers could be handled by giving the industry a compensating price increase, but he reckoned without his price administrator.

Arnall has consistently refused to budge, and his immediate chief, Economic Stabilizer Putnam, himself a manufacturer, has stood behind him.

Political Merry-Go-Round

WHEN Colonel McCormick of the Chicago Tribune was in Europe recently, 20 of his top editorial pundits held an informal political poll. Result was pretty much the opposite of the colonel's editorial—namely, nine for Eisenhower, five for Taft, five for Truman, one for Kefauver . . . Before Governor Stevenson of Illinois bowed out of the Presidential race, he received an amazing letter from Eisenhower's campaign manager, Paul Hoffman, stating that he, Hoffman, could sleep well on election night if he knew that either Stevenson or Eisenhower would be in the White House . . . A secret poll taken by Ike's headquarters lines up 586 delegates for Eisenhower at the opening of the Chicago convention. The rest of Ike' delegate poll is 481 for Taft, 76 for Governor Warren, 25 for Stassen, two for MacArthur, 47 undecided . . . Naturally, Taft disputes these figures . . . The Democratic National Committee is beginning to worry about campaign expenses. Except for their big political dinners, the Democrats are only getting a trickle of the money they'll need for their big campaign this Fall.