

NEW ENGLAND IS NOW FIGHTING BACK

IN A FLIPPANT and rather odd message addressed to "all New England manufacturers who moved South," the Boston Herald has this to say:

"You can come home now. You can start eating real food—the clam chowder and Indian pudding—instead of hominy grits, bean greens and hot water. You can be living in an alien land to reap the profits of cheap labor and low taxes are over."

The Herald, long worried over the exodus of industry from New England, found solace in a report of a Chamber of Commerce consultant, John T. Tomb, who tells northern manufacturers in Harvard Business Review that the number of places in the South with low costs are decreasing, and that where costs are low, "that advantage may be lost" by the time a new plant is completed.

Tomb's study produced such findings as these:

- 1. The labor supply in the South is diminishing, and it is being reflected in higher pay, lower productivity, and added fringe benefits as industrialization of the South continues.
2. Supervisors, clerical and technical employees in southern plants draw higher pay than in the North.
3. Production workers in Birmingham and Memphis were getting higher per hour wages in March, 1952, than they were in Manchester, N. H., Portland, Me., Lancaster, Pa. and York, Pa.

"The evidence indicates the gap has been largely closed" in workmen's compensation costs.

The industrialized states in the North generally have lower state tax schedules, and the expanding South is going to have to spend even more tax money for housing, hospital, roads, and schools for its growing population.

We doubt that U. S. industry is going to put too much faith in the Tomb survey for a good many reasons, not the least of which is that it is patently inadequate. It fails to reflect, for example, the great trend of industry away from labor-short cities and into rural areas where apt and willing workers can be trained to new tasks. Nor does it reflect other factors that govern the selection of industrial sites—pure and adequate water supply, plenty and reasonable power, good climate, political stability, proximity to raw materials and markets, relative isolation in the event of war, natural skills and aptitudes and a willingness to work, and a public attitude favorable to business and industry.

At the same time, southern leaders might as well wake up to the fact that the older industrial areas have snuffed out of their lethargy, and that they have now begun to fight back in the battle for new industry.

The Tomb report is just one new weapon in the struggle, and there will be others. The time may well come when the states of the South, instead of competing so hotly against the older areas for business, will work out a more co-operative regional approach if they want to hold their own.

RETICENT WITNESSES POSE A PROBLEM

WHAT IS TO BE DONE with witnesses who invoke the Fifth Amendment when asked about their Communist party affiliations?

The Internal Security subcommittee, in its report on interlocking subversion in government departments, once again flays enforcers of the Smith Act, which would give Congress the power to grant immunity to key witnesses.

On the other hand, there are many students of constitutional law who oppose weakening the traditional protection against being forced to testify against one's self. Anyone who reads the lengthy hearings cannot but feel impatience, irritation, and even disgust at the way in which some witnesses, at the advice of counsel, have abused the Fifth Amendment.

As of late August, Look magazine reports, 175 former Federal employees and members of the armed forces had invoked the Fifth Amendment. Eight of these, or less than one per cent, appeared originally before the subcommittee; the rest were first questioned by other committees. Look's tabulation showed that:

- 1. At least 14 of the 175 "had declined even to state whether they had engaged themselves as members of the United States Army."
2. More than half of the 175 declined to say whether they had lied when they signed a government pledge that they did not belong to an organization advocating the overthrow of the U. S. Government by force.
3. Witnesses who refused to affirm or deny membership in the Communist Party held key posts in 71 Federal agencies and departments of the Federal Government.

The use of the Fifth Amendment by these 175 witnesses has not blocked the Congressional investigations. The probes may have been handicapped, but they have brought forth a glut of material on the structure and functions of the Communist Party in the United States.

If Congress approves the bill to grant immunity to witnesses, it must be surrounded with adequate safeguards to prevent the abuse of immunity by witnesses and compel the overwhelming majority of U. S. taxpayers. Many small businesses in Denver were not complying with the tax laws.

LET'S HAVE MORE TAX SLEUTHING

WRITING in the current issue of Taxpayers' Dollar, Revenue Commissioner T. Coleman Andrews gives a statistical breakdown of the recent door-to-door canvass his agents conducted in New England.

The survey covered only one-sixth of one per cent of the New England taxpayers. Agents interviewed 8,800 persons, found that 13 per cent of them had not even filed income tax returns. The Revenue Bureau collected \$80,000 directly, and received \$320,000 more in voluntary contributions from other taxpayers who had not been canvassed.

On the basis of this pilot project, Mr. Andrews estimates that there are many thousands of taxpayers in the nation who through ignorance of the law or delinquency are evading their responsibilities.

"The biggest delinquency, as was to be expected, was in the filing of estimated income returns," he writes, "but the most amazing thing about the survey was the discovery that, not less.

Later on, agents of the Internal Revenue Bureau made a spot check in Denver, Colo., using the classified section of the telephone directory as a guide. They discovered that many small businesses in Denver were not complying with the tax laws.

The bureau has been charged with "snoping," but we suspect that its efforts to track down tax evaders have the approval of the taxpayers who are able to dodge their taxes by simply failing to file reports.

If anything, we need more tax snooping of this kind, not less.

PROGRESS ON ANOTHER CULTURAL FRONT

WITH Her concert tonight, the Charlotte Opera Association is moving into its fifth anniversary year. And to celebrate the birthday, director Clifford Bair and conductor Melvin Nips are offering four major productions this season instead of the usual three.

Cornes begins the year, followed in December by the second performance ever given of Vittorio Giannini's opera with Shakespeare's lyrics, The Tempest of the Shrove. The Merry Widow comes along in February, and next May we'll get a chance to hear the Howard Dietz English version of La Boheme. That's quite an undertaking for an "After 5" Opera Company whose singers work eight hours every day in stores and offices, then devote their free time to producing opera.

In five years the group has expanded its staff to include its own orchestra and conductor. Its own scenery and costumes, its own dance director, and its own Opera Workshop in Cordelle Park. By moving their offices into East High School, the opera group has proved that Charlotte likes opera—at least enough to drive six miles outside city limits to hear it.

Says Dr. Bair: "Our present budget of \$14,000 and our housing and equipment assets with a replacement value of \$100,000 are in stark contrast to our humble beginning when our only tangible asset was a \$200

donation from the Charlotte Music Club." Congratulations are in order. Not only to the Opera Association, but also to Charlotte's businessmen and civic leaders, who are patrons and advertisers, and to the people who pay \$2 at the box-office.

Only six copies of every government purchase order will be necessary if a new system proves successful. If it does work out that way our farm surplus may prove as important compared to our surplus of paper—Greenwood (Misc) Commonwealth.

An extremely young sports writer, enamored of the press in creation, looked up from his rapt gaze at the blank sheet of paper in his typewriter, pointed to the setting sun, and asked, "Is that the West?"

"If it isn't," the old timer answered, "you're sure got a hell of a scoop on your hands there.—Lamar (Mo) Democrat.

Perle Mesta reports she didn't like Russia, and no wonder. They have only one party there.—Fort Myers (Fla) News-Press.

Trouble about after-supper visitors, they always stay until a fellow's sleep is showing.—Beriou (Ga) Herald.



People's Platform

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

Uptown Sidewalks A Mess

CHARLOTTE THE sidewalks and curbsides in downtown Charlotte are in a deplorable state. To the visitor they resemble a patchwork quilt consisting of cement segments, some dating from the last century. They certainly are no credit to the progressive city of Charlotte which has truly made remarkable strides in the past decade.

It is my understanding that the sidewalks are not public property and, if such is the case, the responsibility lies with the property owners, who certainly should be willing to cooperate in a sidewalk and gutter improvement program for downtown Charlotte.

Here's to a better and bigger Charlotte! —D. J. ANSBORO JR.

A Way Out Of School Jam

CHARLOTTE THE school situation in Charlotte is appalling and will continue to be as neweners arrive. SEEMS like I'm seeing shades of revolting crime entirely too often in this column.

One Wilbert Eads describes the possible appointment of Judge John J. Parker to the Supreme Court as a "colossal tragedy." Tech. Ich. Sarby offers another view of the department, and eminent qualified jurist won't feel "too badly" about Ora's denunciation under the circumstances. You see Judge, Ora's still mourning the death of convicted criminals Julius and Ethel Rosenberg and things just ain't settled in the right places yet in his'aid. —BOB CHERRY JR.

Opposes Bonds, Liquor

EFLAND BECAUSE of the enormous number of homes and farms being advertised for sale for 1953 taxes, believe our best citizens should abstain from voting more bonds on us until we can pay some of the already heavy bonds against us.

Why should good citizens be paying for \$72 million worth of bonds when we are having one of the worst droughts that we have had in many years? ABC liquor stores when millions of dollars are leaving our state? The proposal, which has been gradually getting worse every year, until now nearly every county has ABC liquor stores. It seems like, and why cannot we try to get more milk, butter, fruits, melons and other farm products grown instead of

Critic Of Parker Answered

CHARLOTTE "It is technically feasible," said the Sawyer manuscript. The State Department, anxious to promote the good-neighbor policy, immediately sent the Communist American News Company a copy of the report. Ordinarily the loan of a technical expert to a friendly newspaper is a routine thing. It was not to be in this case two months went by before the State Department concocted an answer.

Finally Craig Sheffer, assistant secretary of the Bureau of Economic Warfare, wrote on July 20 that the report could not be given to the newspaper. Other men could be sent, Sheffer said, but not Friedman.

This sounded a little strange to the Cuban Embassy in Washington, because unofficially it was known that Mr. Friedman was being allowed to resign of government under the new economy wave. Furthermore, he happens to be the one and only Communist in the State Department on bagasse. So the Cuban Embassy wrote back August 31, asking how soon Mr. Friedman would be expected to help them on bagasse and newspaper.

Three weeks have passed, and as of this writing there is no reply. Friedman is sitting in the Commerce Department with no pressing duties. Meanwhile Assistant Secretary Sheffer writes that he's indispensable.

Meanwhile also, the Bureau of Stand-

GOP Worried Over Farm Vote In Midwest Areas Next Year

By MARQUIS CHILDS

POLITICAL leaders in one state after another are generally agreed on one thing. That is the continuing personal popularity of President Eisenhower. The image is still very much what it was a year ago: a confident leader who out of his broad knowledge and experience can resolve the problems and confusions and end confusion and doubt.

This does not mean, however, that the Republicans face the future with the most electric with supreme confidence. Those who try to appraise what is happening politically in the country are well-worn as possible are in fact becoming to be troubled. Their concern is, above all, over the farm vote in the Midwest.

Republican leaders in Minnesota, one of the key farm states which Eisenhower carried last year, are worried. The only possible conclusion was that the farm vote in Minnesota was not as solid as it once was. It does not seem quickly it could not be retrieved by campaign time a year from now.

STARKLY NOW This defection is indicated less strikingly in the State Fair poll taken for many years by the same organization, at the Minnesota State Fair. Professional pollsters put great trust in the tabulation. They showed that 629 voters answered most of the questions. They were divided nearly equally between city and with little difference.

One of the questions was: Do you believe President Eisenhower is being a good, fair or a bad job? Of the total who answered, 5,418 said good, 5,300 said fair, and 6,082 said bad. But the most interesting showing was the question: Do you believe the Republican Congress is doing a good job? Of the total replying, 4,857 said yes and 12,188 said no.

Another question was: Would you vote for the Republican ticket if you were voting today? The tally was 5,113 Republican, 4,056 Democrat, and 1,201 undecided. They were also asked how they had voted last November and the record was 4,306 for Eisenhower, 400 for Stevenson, and 1,800 for neither candidate.

Minnesota has, of course, five electoral votes and the Republican leadership setting it apart from its more conservative neighbors. It is the word being passed out by Republican leaders that Rep. Walter J. Reuther now has decided not to take on Humphrey next year. Judd, with a highly effective campaign, is given as the most liberalist in the field. He is said to have been diligent and careful consideration to the possibility of being elected.

The most formidable candidate in the opinion of many would be Luther H. Hanft, who is now serving as Governor to take an appointment which came two days before the election. He is now a member of the National Committee on Governmental Administration. President Truman to make that appointment which came two days before the election.

It is indeed, they will agree to a unified non-Communist Korea, as any terms—will be admission of Communist China into the United States will not be a wholesale blockade, which is undoubtedly hurting China badly.

There is no disposition whatsoever in Washington to pay such a price. Aside from the obvious domestic political implications, policy-makers like the present secretary of State Walter Rostow are sincerely convinced that to pay such a price would be tantamount to a Communist takeover throughout Southeast Asia.

This failure to reach agreement at the Korean conference, no matter who attends it, is considered just about of certain. This year, the majority of one among the experts.

A formula for an agreed settlement in which the United States would be offered Korean neutralization and the withdrawal of all foreign troops, in return for free elections, had been presented. Its adoption, is being seriously considered in the State Department.

Proponents of the formula argue that the Communist might agree to a non-Communist Korea but would not withdraw American troops from Korea as both, it is argued, desirable objectives.

REHE'S OFFENSE Rhee is certainly an unpropitious old man. But those best able to judge are fairly confident that Rhee is a logical or political, to start the fighting again, and that he is a logical or political, to start the fighting again, and that he is a logical or political, to start the fighting again.

NOTE — Assistant Secretary Sheffer, who wrote the run-around letter to the Cuban Embassy, is the man who fired Dr. Allen Dulles as director of the Bureau of Economic Warfare, then was indirectly rebuked by Secretary J. Edgar Hoover when the latter hired Allen and removed the Bureau from Sheffer's jurisdiction. Sheffer also contributed \$1,000 to Senator McCarran's last campaign and \$1,500 to Governor Merwyn K. Hart.

Merry-GO-Round

PRESIDENT Eisenhower never signs his full name as the Bureau of Economic Warfare, prefers to use the initials "D.D.E.," which he says keeps him in the amateur or "hobby" class.

When guests visit the New Hampshire farm of Secretary of Commerce Sinclair Weeks and his missus toured New York City last week, they were escorted by a "baggage" wagon, footing all their own expenses.

Drew Pearson's Merry-Go-Round Cuba Given Run-Around On Bagasse Pan

WASHINGTON THE Commerce Department doesn't like to discuss it, but its officials have given an amazing run-around to the Cuban government regarding the all-important question of helping U. S. publishers with the manufacturing newspaper from sugar cane.

On May 19 the Cuban Government requested technical aid from the Eisenhower Administration to help with the manufacture of newspaper from bagasse, the left-over waste from sugar cane after the sugar is produced. The proposal, which has been the subject of American newspaper publishers, was aimed at breaking the Canadian newspaper monopoly, which has pushed publishing costs so high that some newspapers have gone out of business.

However, the Commerce Department, after four months delay, is still giving the Cuban Government the run-around—though Cuba offers to pay all costs. Background of the Cuban move was a report made by Democratic Secretary of Commerce Charles Sawyer to the Senate, which stated that the Cuban situation, sent to Rep. Emanuel Celler of New York, chairman of the House Judiciary Committee, Oct. 1 last.

The report told how bagasse was one means of breaking the Canadian newspaper monopoly, told the Bureau of Standards had produced paper from bagasse on which the Congressional Record was printed.

"It is technically feasible," said the Sawyer manuscript. The State Department, anxious to promote the good-neighbor policy, immediately sent the Communist American News Company a copy of the report. Ordinarily the loan of a technical expert to a friendly newspaper is a routine thing. It was not to be in this case two months went by before the State Department concocted an answer.

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