THE CHARLOTTE NEWS

And Evening Chronicle

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● W. C. Dowd, 1863-1927 ●

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MONDAY, NOVEMBER 24, 1941

Un-Faced

The Basic Issues Have Been Avoided, Not Met Head On

The discipline which John L. Lewis has inculcated in his United Mine Workers probably assures an end for the present to his captive coal mine strike, even though the arbitration should go against him. With all his ruthlessness and his consuming megalomania, Lewis believes in carrying out agreements to which he has assented.

But the issues which are basic to this country's labor turmoil, and which this strike gave the perfect opportunity to meet, have not been faced; they have only been avoided.

Those issues are:

1. Does the right to work exist along with the right to strike?

2. If so, who is to maintain sufficient public order for the exercise of that right?

3. Granting the right to strike, is there to be no limitation of it even when it clashes with urgent public interests?

These are not abstract questions to be disposed of in editorial offices or in debates between college literary societies. They go down to the bedrock of Americanism as it is evolving in a highly industrialized pattern. In their answer lies the decision between order and anarchy, and if it is for the former, it will have to be backed up with the full force of public authority.

It is not enough for the President to play a Queen Elizabeth role in this drama (in which he is a collaborator) and supinely to procrastinate until the questions shall have answered themselves. It is foolhardy for the President to continue to indulge himself in indecisive, history-eyeing "Liberalism," and in the strange company of Ann Lindbergh to dismiss what he cannot condone as only incidental by-products of some poetic "Wave of the Future."

These are problems of flesh and blood of human rights and wrongs, of factory and fireside, of class and class, which is to say of Americans. The honesty with which they are stated and the resoluteness with which they are faced will have a good deal to do with the continuing definition of democracy.

Come, now; yes or no:

1. Does the right to work exist along with the right to strike?

2. If so, who is to maintain sufficient public order for the exercise of that right?

3. Granting the right to strike, is there to be no limitation of it when it clashes with urgent public interest?

Weird Rule

"More-Risk, Less-Liability" Ordinance To Get Review

An automobile, as everybody knows, is a pretty dangerous instrument of destruction. It sometimes kills or injures persons and does harm to property, particularly to other automobiles. From these mischances claims for damages arise. When the average responsible citizen purchases an automobile, he arranges, even before he drives his car off the showroom floor, to be insured against personal or property damages that may be incurred. The more cars he owns or operates, the more insurance coverage he requires.

Not so, however, under City ordinance, the operators of taxicabs in Charlotte. Although their risk is enormously greater than that of private owners of automobiles, both because their vehicles are constantly on the dart and because they are liable to their passengers as well as to pedestrians and other motorists, the present ordinance actually provides that the more vehicles they send out on the streets, the less liability per vehicle they have to assume.

For one cab, the bond required is $5,000 for injury to persons and $500 for damage to property. For a second cab the additional requirement is $100, making a total of $5,600 for the two vehicles, or $2,800 apiece. For 50 cabs, the total would be only $10,400, which is a good deal less protection than many owners of a single automobile used on personal business exclusively, consider adequate. For cab it figures out to $204.

This ordinance is downright quaint in its structure and traces either to the stupidity or the indifference of the City Council that was in office in September, 1937, when it was enacted for the benefit of a dime cab operator. The present City Council, agreeing that the dime cabs render a desirable and convenient transportation service, appears to be disposed to revise the ordinance so as to its public liability requirements and to look into the enforcement of its other provisions relating to the inspection of cabs and the records of drivers. There can't be much argument about the necessity of either.

Hedging

A Last Resort Weapon Against Inflation Pops Up

There are three ways of looking at inflation and if the money experts know what they are talking about the time is at hand when every individual must decide which view he is going to take.

The first, and probably the most common, expedient is not to look at it at all. This entails a sort of blind indecision—a floundering about that produces nothing except mutual and collective helplessness.

Then there is the patriotic, public-spirited approach to dealing with inflation. Obviously, this is the road the Administration would have us follow. We are urged to buy Government bonds or put our money in the bank instead of spending it for goods that we could get along without. We are asked to give our consent to higher taxes, to reduce our standard of living so that competitive buying will not drive prices up. We are cautioned to get out of debt and stay out. We are advised that if we do these things and have faith in the Government to take care of its mounting deficit, inflation will never come and our insurance, bonds, and savings will be safe.

The third course of action against inflation is essentially selfish, hard-headed, and skeptical. It is the reaction of the practical business man who, having decided that the Government either can't or won't stop inflation, looks about him for ways of safeguarding his own investments and riding out the storm. It is a philosophy of hedging. *The Wall Street Journal* is printing a series of articles that should prove very helpful to those who accept inflation as inevitable. The advice it sets forth is just the opposite of that given out by the Government. If you want to beat inflation, go into debt. Borrow on your insurance and invest in commodities and business property. (Farms are not desirable.) Don't get loaded with cash and accounts receivables. Steer clear of all bonds.

Leaving out the do-nothing philosophy, the decision is between stringing along with the Government and a sort of every-man-for-himself state of chaos. It would be infinitely more desirable to co-operate with the Government and prevent inflation. But has the present Administration proved worthy of such confidence? And can a Government that has utterly failed to cope with the first gusts of inflation hold back the full-size tornado when it comes?

The answer is that it cannot unless it has the willing co-operation of all citizens. The time to win that co-operation is now and the passage of an adequate price control bill would be a good sign that the Administration means business.

Roan's Beauty

Government Safeguards Great Rhododendron Stand

The Government has bought Roan Mountain—and not a fortnight too soon, either. Each spring the rolling dome of this 6,287-foot peak on the North Carolina-Tennessee line breaks into one of the most spectacular displays of wild flowering shrubs in the world. For Roan is a "bald"—one of those strange Appalachian summits where, as far as scientists can tell, no tree has ever grown. There is a thick, resilient grass and acre upon acre of rhododendron. Roan's rhododendron is a somewhat rare variation of the shrub. The color is between pink, orchid and deep red.

Thousands of visitors come every year to look at Roan's splendid blossoming. That the Government intends to hold this natural heritage in trust for all the people is most encouraging.

Not only that, but it may have forestalled a tragedy. With European briar sources cut off, pipe manufacturers have taken to making their bowls out of rhododendron roots. Tons of the big burls are being excavated and gaping holes left in the mountainsides. Now Roan's centuries-old rhododendron roots are safe.

Billions In Tribute

By Hugh S. Johnson

WASHINGTON.—I don't know how much, if any, of our settlement with Mexico is to come out of Lease-Lend money. Perhaps none. But of course the whole result is one of an attempt to buy the good will of a neighboring republic in the fight against Hitler, in which attempt we give practically everything, including our principle that expropriation without compensation is confiscation which we hitherto have refused to concede.

It is mentioned here only incidentally as a sample of our policy under actual Lease-Lend. The billions that we have appropriated for this purpose were with the understanding that they were to be used to arm and sustain the "peace-loving governments" who were fighting the "aggressors" in the interests of "democracy." That was before we took on bloody Joe Stalin, the chief aggressor and enemy of democracy as an ally. Now Lease-Lend seems to be expanded to include anybody who is fighting Hitler.

This is quite understandable but it raises a pertinent question. Is Lease-Lend a military project or sort of carte blanche to our government to spend all the money there is for any political purpose whatever?

GENERAL HOPKINS
CHIEF OF L-L STAFF

Should it be handled by politicians, diplomats, social workers and economists? Or is the basic consideration one of how much of this money goes where it will do the most good in matters of purely military strategy? It seems to me that at least the primary consideration is military but there is precious little military talent or experience being used in the administration of those billions.

That great strategist, Mr. Harry Hopkins, who has spent more of the peoples' money than any other individual since the beginning of time and with less result is the Lease-Lend Pro-Bah, and, if there is a competent soldier in his retinue, I cannot for the moment recall his name.

REVIVAL OF
DOLLAR DIPLOMACY

Surely the situation now is not a far cry from the way in which some WPA projects were parceled out. If a certain country is showing a slight weakness in support of our objectives, a few tens of million may be thrown that way. Similarly, if a South American good neighbor begins to flirt with the Nazis, it may suddenly find itself the recipient of several hundred millions of dollars of this, that, or the other, which it has been seeking. If it is demonstrating a good resistance to Mr. Hitler, it may get tanks or aeroplanes in addition to other such favors.

DO-GOODERS DETOUR
THE BRASS HATS

We have long had in this country an almost neglected group of experts called the army and navy munitions board. It is an agency equipped to make decisions as to where our industrial military production will do the most good. It is in a position to know all the considerations and thinking of the General Staff of the Army, the General Board of the Navy and what should be the future task of our own armed forces and the plans of our allies.

In our set-up today, its voice is an almost neglected whisper at the counsel tables where it is drowned out by the clamor of the diplomats, the politicians, the cultural experts and the new tribe of international do-gooders who are out to remake the world with American billions when the war is over. It is the latter groups which decide on their own considerations what county should get how much of our production and why. Even our own Army and Navy are at their mercy in the question of supply.

How Hearst Handles "Citizen Kane"

Business Week.

The Hearst newspapers are still sensitive about "Citizen Kane," the movie supposedly based on the career of William Randolph Hearst. In the beginning, of course, none of the Hearst papers ran any ads for the picture, and never mentioned its existence in their movie columns.

Now that the picture has been shown in hundreds of theaters all over the country though and has got down to the small neighborhood houses, the rules have been relaxed a lot of the Hearst papers, and the dreaded name has been listed as playing at the local Bijou, just like any other picture. Not in the Los Angeles Hearst papers though. According to Variety, they just said: "Starts Tomorrow. Big Screen Attraction."

"I'll Get You Somewhere in a Hurry!"

—By Herblock

Letters to the Editor:

A Consumer Rises Up

Editors, THE NEWS:

We all understand that we must make sacrifices in order to preserve our American way of life. I am sure we are all glad to do our bit toward the defeat of Hitlerism by cheerfully paying the Federal excise taxes. But when it comes to paying rapidly soaring food prices to bulge the pockets of dishonorable war profiteers, that is another proposition entirely. A concentration camp would be none too severe a punishment for these un-American disloyalists who take advantage of the national emergency to stuff their greedy pockets and inflict needless hardship on us all. I hope the Government will soon find a way to stop these vultures.

In the meantime, let me suggest to the housewives that they use as largely as possible the grocery products which have not advanced in price. There are still quite a few of these, if one takes the trouble to look for them. We can patronize these loyal manufacturers and help our own household budgets at the same time.

—ALICE McFARLAND.

1224 Camp Greene Avenue,
Charlotte.

(Note: Food manufacturers, loyal and unloyal alike, are paying higher taxes all along the line. So are dealers. Growers are getting more for foodstuffs, and between this three-bladed pincer consumers are inevitably bound to be nipped.—Editors, THE NEWS.)

What Is Religion?

Editors, THE NEWS:

You might look over a thousand definitions of religion reduced to concrete phrase and come way still wondering what religion really is.

It's a difficult matter to bring down within reach of our common intelligences and appreciations.

We can only approximate its inherent nature and when in trying to reduce the meaning of religion to words and sentences, we usually find that all the answers are insufficient.

Some are disposed to regard it as an attitude of mind, or a state of the heart or a degree of emotionalism or intellectual apprehension of the metaphysical, or perhaps as mere moral purposes.

It is not in the least uncommon in these confused and bewildered days to get lost in this realm or to allow some would-be leader and interpreter to misguide us as to what genuinely and basically constitutes religion.

And while we may hopelessly grope around for a suitable answer for ourselves in this field, it is not so hard to dismiss some of the explanations and definitions which one occasionally runs across as meeting the case.

For example, here is a schoolmaster, asked how religion was taught in his schools, replying that:

"We teach religion all day long. We teach it in arithmetic by accuracy. We teach it in language by learning to say what we mean. We teach it in history by humanity. We teach it in geography by breadth of mind. We teach it in handicraft by thoroughness. We teach it in astronomy by reverence. We teach it on the playground by fair and sportsmanly play. We teach it by kindness to animals, by courtesy to servants, by good manners to one another and truthfulness in all things. We teach it by showing the children that we, their elders, are their friends and not their enemies."

All of this is rather moving and very lovely, of course, but it is NOT religion.

It is only the outgrowth of religion, the fruit of it, not the stem nor the root of the tree of life.

It is ethics and social relations, but neither ethics nor social relations, no matter how high-minded and adorable, constitute more than something that is inspired or created by religion.

—J. B. O'MEARA.

Charlotte.

That Convenient Party Line

New York Times

It is the chief mission of the Communist party to come to the aid of all its good men by telling them what to think.

It goes beyond politics and social problems. In every sphere of human interest the Party comes to the aid of its good men by laying down the law, down to the minutest point. The question of a Western Front against Hitler may seem a fairly remote issue in a New York municipal election, but the Party line has entered into questions even more remote.

What about "Hamlet" as a work of art? The answer is simple. "Hamlet" is only the expression of a moribund capitalist-feudalist society when the Party line is all for a new proletarian literature up to half a dozen years ago. "Hamlet" is a magnificent work of art when the Party line gets tired of proletarian writers and discovers that they are only petty bourgeois.

The faithful Communist need not go to the trouble of deciding on the validity of evolution. There is a Party line on Darwin, and if the Party line changes, all the Party members will be duly notified. In the universe expanding or growing smaller? Should roses be banked up for the Winter with a mulch or a good artificial fertilizer? What is the truth about Vitamin B1? There is probably a Party line on all these subjects.

How simple and easy it makes life for the individual! How much time it saves him for golf and murder stories, assuming that the Party line sanctions golf and murder stories.

Something Cooking In Denmark

British Information Service

When a British bomber blasted a war plant in the Danish town of Skive recently, Goebbels, in a panic of under-statement, issued a communique saying that no damages were done except that a row had been hit. The local paper, Skive Folkeblad, dutifully carried the communique, then commented simply: "The cow burned for four days."

TODAY'S BIBLE THOUGHT

Remember in youth and you will not regret in old age: *Remember now thy Creator in the days of thy youth, when the evil days come not, nor the years draw nigh when thou shalt say I have no pleasure in them.*—*Ecclesiastes 12:1.*

Lewis Loses Popularity

By Raymond Clapper

WASHINGTON.

IF THERE is any hopeful aspect to the coal-mine strike, it is in the signs that even the CIO is becoming fed up with the tactics of John L. Lewis. It is his own creation and is therefore hesitant about openly repudiating him. But evidence of his unpopularity is plain.

Personal encounters have occurred at the Detroit convention of the CIO, growing out of bitterness among the delegates over the activities of the Lewis faction, which is contemptuously referred to as the Lewis goon squad. This group was charged by one indignant labor leader with attempting a reign of terror. CIO delegates hurled boos at the Lewis group as it sat tight during a convention demonstration for Philip Murray, president of the CIO. The brother of John Lewis was reported to have sat in his seat reading a newspaper during the demonstration.

These are all signs of a gathering storm. And as if to wash off the stains of the conduct of Lewis in defying the Federal Government, the CIO convention adopted resolutions favoring peaceful settlement of disputes and pledging co-operation with industry and government to obtain maximum Defense production.

These may not be signs of revolt but they are signs of impatience and dissatisfaction, as if many of the CIO delegates realized that their movement was being placed in a hazardous position by the conduct of their Founding Father.

A MARTYRED LEADER
JOHN L. WOULD BE

Certainly the labor movement is placed in danger by the arrogant defiance of John Lewis. His case is so weak, and the Government has shown such patience and restraint in dealing with his stiff-necked demagoguery, that Lewis has lost practically all outside support. Possibly Lewis has been playing a tricky game hoping the Administration would attempt to force the miners back to work with bayonets. In that case Lewis would pose as the protector of labor, Mr. Roosevelt has not fallen into the trap. He has left Lewis in the unenviable role of sabotaging Defense production in order to wring the last five per cent of a labor monopoly out of the captive coal mines.

The conduct of Lewis has so offended the public sense of reasonableness and responsibility expected from a top-ranking labor leader that it opens the way for all of the traditional enemies of labor to move in and recover lost ground. Because Lewis has symbolized the new era of labor under the New Deal, his conduct now prejudices everything that has been done. If the end of all this is only to produce a ruthless and arrogant labor dictator, bigger than the Government, public faith in collective bargaining is bound to be shaken. Laws enforcing collective-bargaining rights are in danger of being broken down.

LABOR MUST CLEAN
IT'S HOUSE OR ELSE . . .

That should not be the result of this affair, but when a public swing begins it is apt to go to the opposite extreme. On numerous occasions the Supreme Court has held collective bargaining to be fair and desirable. It has taken the position that the single employee is helpless in bargaining with a large corporation employer. The Supreme Court has said, as it did in the Jones & Laughlin case, that union was essential to give laborers opportunity to deal on an equality with their employer.

But this assumes a reasonable attitude on the part of labor. It is not intended to be used as a ladder upon which a designing labor politician can build a monopoly and then blackjack the Government by shutting down a necessary industry in a national emergency. If legislation is enacted to deal with this abuse of collective-bargaining rights, it will hit all labor alike and it may go much further than dealing with this abuse. If labor itself does not break the power of John Lewis, the Government, with the Administration and Congress working together, will have to do it.

Side Glances

"Some day Daddy is going to invent something and make a million dollars—then you can have a tricycle, cowboy suit, and a real live pony besides."

Senator Soaper Says:

Dora's reducing diet is a big disappointment. In a week she put on five pounds, including her new costume jewelry.

After Morgenthau is through mopping up the American pocket, remind us to ask whatever became of pork chops.

A strange geographical phenomenon is noted by the Fuehrer's armies in illimitable Russia. When they reach the horizon, there is another.

China absorbs the invader, which works out very well, and we wonder why Britain doesn't just naturalize Hess and add him to his Majesty's loyal opposition.

"A man's bite is more serious than that of any animal," a Southern medical journal now reports. But isn't that what Editor Dana said?

It's been years since we awoke of a Monday feeling undefeated, unfied and unscorned-upon.

Visitin' Around

Teeterin' But Not Totterin'
(Locust Item,
Stanly News & Press)

Rev. and Mrs. E. D. Teeter have been on the sick list for the past week, but are not serious.

Arlie Steps Out
(Gold Hill Item,
Stanly News & Press)

Arlie Hill has purchased a '39 Ford automobile; a tan in color.

What Goes On Here?
(Hamilton's X-Roads Item,
Monroe Journal)

I heard of one preacher, not in this county, criticizing the girls and women for dancing with the soldiers and selling them beer. I am not saying this is right. But of all people, preachers should not drink beer or flirt with young girls. But when this was told in my presence and I learned that he said it in church, I wanted to ask if that preacher was selling that for the good of the ladies of his congregation or if he was jealous.