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We seek truth, that we may follow it.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 11, 1938

Narrow Escape

The country is safely past that war-referendum resolution of Hon. Ludlow, for the time being, at any rate. The House turned it down yesterday, but by the slight margin of 21 votes. Despite the President's direct appeal that it be defeated, despite the alarm of Secretary Hull, despite the ganging-up on the bill of all the whips and the wheel horses of the lopsided Democratic majority in the House, 188 Representatives still voted to bring the bill on the floor for debate and disposition. The strength of the minority portends the resurrection of the war-referendum resolution. It will be with us again.

And the great flaw in the resolution as Hon. Ludlow drew it is that, should Congress adopt it, it will be with us in the form of a proposed amendment to the Constitution for years. It will be shuttled around from this state legislature to that, killed, revived, killed, revived. A few of the Western states will pass it, but for the most part, if we know our states, it will be turned down flat. And then anti-war societies will materialize to agitate for adoption of the thing, and the country will be divided into two camps over going into or staying out of a war that does not even threaten with an enemy that can't even be named.

For, like the child labor amendment which Congress submitted to the states in 1924, the war-referendum resolution contains no time limit. Its proposal, in all likelihood, will have no sequel in its disposal. No matter how many times this or that state may vote it down, it will always be coming back for more. And ten or fifteen or twenty years after its submission, it will still be with us, a perennial issue that has a beginning but no end.

If You Can't Beat 'Em, Senator, Join 'Em

Senator Bailey did not attend the Jackson Day Dinner in Washington, at which the President spoke, even though it was held in the Senator's hotel. He was discovered entering the elevator to go up to his apartment a short time after the President and his party had arrived.

"Why aren't you with the others, Senator?" he was asked.

"I like Jackson," he replied, "but the Jackson I know isn't named Bob."

Well, it is too bad for as able and studious a Democrat as Bailey to have become so completely alienated from a Democratic administration that he scorns the simple amenities. We would not have him be false to his convictions or fawn upon those for whom he had contempt. At the same time, he owes an obligation to his constituency to take part in, not withdraw in a pet from, the party organization; and that he has found much in the New Deal with which to ally himself wholeheartedly is shown by his statement issued during his 1936 campaign for reelection. By his own claim he had supported sixteen recovery and reform acts, including the stock exchange reform act and the utilities control act.

And it is Bailey who, since 1932, has brought up the average of the North Carolina Senatorial delegation to a point where the state may reflect that it had *some* influence in the shaping of legislation. Now we are to have one Senator who, when squeezed around the middle, automatically emits the word "Yes," and another whose vocabulary is limited to "No," why, we'd as well call it a stand-off and let both their seats stay vacant.

Symposium on the Recession

Dr. Raymond Moley, former Brain Trust, made a speech yesterday in which he outlined a method for breaking the back of this recession. He called for:

1. Repeal of the undistributed-profits tax.
2. Modification of the capital-gains tax.
3. A conference to be called by the President between builders and labor leaders to set the housing program in motion.
4. An immediate settlement of the utilities controversy.

A couple of months ago, a group of the nation's leading economists made suggestions for breaking the back of this recession. They called for:

1. Repeal of the undistributed-profits tax.
2. Modification or repeal of the capital-gains tax.
3. An end to governmental competition with business.
4. Indication of an intent to balance the budget.

Yesterday Lammot Du Pont appeared before the Senate Unemployment Committee, and during the course of the inquisition it developed that this industrialist, while he was perversely unwilling to advance anything so tangible as a "program" for aggressive Senators to shoot at, favored:

1. Repeal of the undistributed-profits tax.
2. Modification of the capital-gains tax.
3. Clarification of governmental policies with respect to business.

Also before this Senate committee came Dr. Claudius T. Murchison, president of the Cotton-Textile Institute. Among his recommendations for nipping recession in the bud and accelerating business and employment were:

1. Repeal of the undistributed-profits tax.
2. Governmental regulation only to those purposes which are general, fundamental, clearly necessary and fully apparent.
3. Modification of the anti-trust laws to permit industrial cooperation.

From these expressions it is evident that business men generally and economists have a definite program. Excepting certain proposals relating to particular industries, they believe that business would go forward again if only the undistributed-profits tax were repealed, the capital-gains tax modified, and a clear line of demarcation, a sort of intranational boundary, drawn between governmental and business provinces. The administration too has a program. The President has asked for a crop-control bill, minimum wages and maximum hours in industry, tax revision without lessening the Government's revenue or restoring old abuses, and has served notice that he intends to ask for anti-monopoly and price-control legislation.

Meantime, neither side, the administration nor business, is getting anywhere. They are stalemated in the execution of plans which, while reflecting different points of view, have in outline no essential conflict. And caught in this deadlock is a whole country of 130,000,000 persons, most of whom have only the barest comprehension of what the argument is all about, the sum of whose desires is steady jobs and decent pay. Obviously, the thing for business and the administration to do in such circumstances, before they get out of the control of both, is to compromise, to trade one program for the other. But obviously again, it won't be done. It's too simple. It doesn't settle the question of which, business or government, is to have the whip hand. Somebody's got to cry "Uncle!"

A Lesson Learned

Glad as North Carolina is to have paper-making plants built within its borders, the State is taking no chance on the depletion of its wood-pulp supply. The Board of Conservation and Development has a committee the duty of which is to make sure that timber is cut in such a way as to assure a continuous growth and not denude the land.

This is a lesson dearly learned, this about conserving forests and replenishing the supply. The years 1920-1930 cost the South as a whole about 60 per cent of its available saw timber, notwithstanding new growths, and even then the South did not realize that these natural resources, however abundant, were not inexhaustible. Everybody conceded that conservation was vital, but nobody did anything much about it until the Roosevelt Administration came in with a definite land policy and the will to put it into effect. Since that time, the Civilian Conservation Corps, the Department of Agriculture with its soil conservation subsidies to farmers, and other Federal agencies have set an example which the states have seen the wisdom of following. What a boon it will prove to the South, which had been blindly exploiting its rich timber lands, only succeeding generations will fully comprehend.

NOTES ON RECESSION

By HUGH S. JOHNSON

GARRETT, IND., en route to Washington—Chicago is a better place than New York to sniff the economic air around a situation like this recession. It is the metropolis of the Middle West and its business tentacles reach much closer to the grass roots. It may also be because it is my country, and I have older and closer friends there in business and banking, not to mention lawyers, cops, cab drivers and labor skates.

I have just spent two days there. It was the center of my business activities for almost seven years and I came away more encouraged than I have been in three months about the slump.

Nearly everybody out there believes it has hit bottom and actually begun to rebound, but the impression is universal that the recovery is going to be slow.

Bill Knudsen's testimony before the Byrnes Committee tells why. The great prime mover of all business is the automobile industry. It consumes so large a proportion of the products of other industries that when it clogs and slows, it has the same effect on the whole economic machine as you see in a factory when the power plant goes haywire.

A Senator Asks The Foolest Question

About the silliest question that could have been asked Mr. Knudsen after his clear-cut testimony about prices, sales and inventories of new parts and production material and new and used cars of both manufacturers and dealers, was one which took him to task for laying off 30,000 men. The essential cause of this slump was too much inventory in the whole automobile industry.

The only way out of it is to clear out that inventory. Keeping on the 30,000 men wouldn't have been clearing out that inventory. It would have been piling it up and therefore deepening the slump and postponing recovery. The thing that has encouraged everybody out here is not that the inventory hump has disappeared—because it still is bad—it is that just such steps have been taken to clear it away.

Congress Could Help a Great Deal

If Congress will just do something to give business a pleasant smile in the way of tax reform to substitute for taxes punishing and restricting business, some equally effective revenue producers—that would be the best possible boost.

The great fear here is that the recovery will be too slow for the patience of the people and of Congress and that there will accordingly be pressure for some kind of shot-in-the-arm inflationary magic which will give some momentary alcoholic stimulation and make real recovery harder and slower than ever.

The Johnson Poll of Public Opinion

Has Mr. Roosevelt lost ground? With the little fellow in business and the white-collar class, yes — tremendously and irretrievably. With farmers, considerably. With organized labor—especially CIO — with the unemployed and with colored people, he has gained.

Notwithstanding the bad press reaction to Mr. Ickes' and Mr. Jackson's rabble-rousing radio diatribes and the perfect monkey Mr. Willkie made out of Mr. Jackson in a radio debate, they actually got across to the most depressed classes the obscenely false charge that this depression was a deliberately conceived and executed plot of all the "haves" to destroy the New Deal efforts to aid the "have-nots." That was exactly what it was intended to do and—with those classes — it worked. You will hear more of this kind of stuff before you hear less.

Visiting Around

Tea for Two (Hah!)
(Monroe Enquirer)

The Monroe fire department held its annual banquet at the Little Dutch Grill Friday night.

Ashes to Ashes
(Walnut Creek Item, Marshall News-Record)

Mr. Dave Sprinkle and his son-in-law, Mr. Gather Briggs, were visiting on Sprinkle's Branch Sunday.

Physician, Heal Thyself
(McDowell News)

Three marriages were performed by Rev. A. R. Batchelor at the courthouse Saturday afternoon within a half-hour's time.

What Does He Do on Cloudy Days—Go by His Stummick?
(Sanford Herald)

Alex McPayden route 2 Vass, who is along in his fifties, says that he has never owned a watch. He is governed by the sun and moon for his timepiece and usually he is not far wrong.

Carolinians Welcome PWA Bearing Gifts

And As For Not Returning Thanks To John Q. Taxpayer, He Was Present.

Dear Sir:

I noticed your little piece in the paper of Friday, "Where Are Their Manners?" In reply, they had the manners just where they should have had them. Mr. John Q. Taxpayer was in the gathering and leading the cheers. Of course, this Mr. John Q was just a small taxpayer, home-owner, farm-owner, store-keeper and such, but this Mr. John Q., which makes up the greater part of this country of ours, was very much interested in seeing his power rate reduced. The other Mr. John Q. Taxpayer who has held up the project so long for fear that it might reduce his income so much, needs and received no cheers.

And why pick on the people of South Carolina? Every time I make a trip to Charlotte I ride by large WPA signs by way of a Charlotte airport or what not. "Our Bob" is doing a good job for you folks in getting Federal funds and other matters. I believe it was your voice that requested funds for Smokey National Park, or whatever it is you call it. The manners were just where they belonged, and I hope you take a lesson and send up a few cheers for Mr. Roosevelt and for "Your Bob," because these Big John Q. Boys of your territory haven't a chance at taking the place of "Our Bob."

Yours for a better South Carolina.
J. BATE HARVEY.

Clover, S. C.

SOUTH CAROLINIANS NOT TO BE KIDDED ABOUT THEIR PROJECTS

Dear Sir:

Will you please give me a little space in your paper in behalf of the PWA in regards to railroads and coal mines? We are doing fine. The PWA is one of the most honest-to-goodness four-square projects that has ever been thought out. If Mr. McCain (P. R., who wrote a letter ridiculing the PWA grant to Buzzards Roost) will put on his thinking cap for less time than it took him to pen his article, possibly he will see just what I mean when I say "on the square." There is a certain class of people that is far out of balance. This class has too much heavy money on one end of the balance while they sit on the other. It pulls them so high that the wind blows through their minds and their thoughts are so dried out that they would not fit if they were able to get them back in their gourds. If it were not so we would have never needed a PWA.

. . . At that time I was getting 97 cents a day and to my surprise the NRA came out and my boss came and told me to bring in my tools tomorrow. I did so and went back to my regular job and my wages went back up to $3.60 per day. The NRA left us with the PWA. Now let us see again what happened. It was just this: the Duke Power Co. had the bigger half of this country under its thumb. It could have cut off power and we would have been in the dark, but now our town has within it a nice power plant, whose kilowatts is just as large and just as cheap. He didn't borrow the money and he isn't under any obligations to big power companies. It certainly is a blessing to be able to borrow money to build power plants in dark places.

P. M. MEADORS.

Clinton, S. C.

* * *

(Editor's Note: Delighted to have the South Carolina point of view presented, we are still in search of logical answers to these two questions:

1. If Duke Power's rates in South Carolina are too high, why isn't the State Railroad Commission the proper agency to so find and to order them reduced?

2. Is it not contrary to the American sense of fair play for the Federal Government to tax power companies and to make outright gifts to municipalities for the purpose of building power plants to compete with power companies?)

WAS THE SUBJECT OF THE PICTURES MRS. HUGHES OR REDFERN?

Dear Sir:

Inclosed you will find photographs of Mrs. Gertrude Redfern and Mrs. Russell Hughes. The photograph of Mrs. Hughes appeared in the Spartanburg Journal on January 5 and the photo of Mrs. Redfern appeared in The Charlotte News on the same day. From appearances, these photos appear to be the same person. Now, we have had an argument that they were. Both were sent to their respective papers by the Associated Press. They both appeared on the same day.

If you can inform me as to which paper is correct I will appreciate it very much.

G. L. MAHAFFEY.

Gaffney, S. C.

* * *

(Editor's Note: The picture printed in The News and called Mrs. Russell Hughes, nee Gertrude Bennett of the Ford Motor Co. Benneth, was correctly identified.)

BELIEVE IT OR NOT By Ripley

On request, sent with stamped, addressed envelope, Mr. Ripley will furnish proof of anything depicted by him.

Explanation of Today's Cartoon

ON THE RECORD

By DOROTHY THOMPSON

Who Loves Liberty?

SOME time ago the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom invited me to speak in Jersey City. This is one invitation that I accepted. I would like to make a speech in Jersey City. In fact, I feel it my duty to make a speech in Jersey City. Because in the Supreme Court fight last year I opposed the President's plan for its reorganization with whatever reason, logic and vehemence at my disposal, for the simple reason that I believe that the powers of government should be limited, and the basic rights guaranteed to individuals under the Constitution should not be left to the interpretation of a "kept" court, switched into line—to use the Nazi phrase—with the policy of this or any other administration. I would have opposed a plan to pack the court if it had been proposed by liberals, conservatives, reactionaries, or socialists.

Now, in that Supreme Court fight I found that I was among many comrades—in the Harvard Club, in the American Manufacturers Association and the American Bar Association. In fact, those of us who opposed the reorganization scheme were held up to ridicule by our "liberal" friends because of the company we found ourselves in. That did not make any impression on those of us who really believed in what we were fighting for. As Oswald Garrison Villard pointed out in The Nation—in an article criticising The Nation's policy—personal integrity is in a bad way when one first looks around to see who is going to be on one's side.

The Missing Defenders Of Liberty

But I notice that neither the Union League Club, nor the Manufacturers Association, nor the Liberty League or its still surviving members, are holding mass meetings or passing resolutions protesting against what is going on in Jersey City.

I remember also that a number of important Catholics rightly opposed the Supreme Court reorganization scheme because they realized that the Bill of Rights, embodied in the Constitution, is the greatest bulwark that a minority like the Catholics has against possible persecution. But we don't hear the Catholic hierarchy protesting vigorously against what is happening in Jersey City. On the contrary, the Catholic hierarchy in Jersey City itself is collaborating very closely with Mayor Hague.

Now these are reasons why I should like to go to Jersey City and make a speech—an old-fashioned, conservative speech about the Constitution of the United States and the protection of minorities. I have never fallen for the idea of "majority mandate" or "unchecked majority rule" when it emanates from the lips of Mr. Roosevelt or the New Deal Administration. The very essence of democracy is the protection of certain basic rights of individuals, groups and minorities against a majority of even 99 per cent. And since I have said that before the Union League Club, I should also like to say it in Jersey City.

But I am having a hard time speaking in Jersey City because it seems to be difficult to find a hall in which to enunciate a doctrine which the most conservative organizations in this country are delighted to hear when it can be directed against the Roosevelt Administration.

Speech Is Free In J. C. on Permission

I might, of course, go to Jersey City and make a speech about the Constitution of the United States on the street. I am willing to do that, too. But, in order to make a speech on the street, you have got to have a permit in Jersey City, and Mayor Hague and his machine control the permit business. Or I might write a speech and hand it out on the streets of Jersey City, but to do that I also have got to have a permit and Mayor Hague and his machine control the permits. Or I might find some little community forum in Jersey City whose leader would have the courage to get together a few people, in a church, perhaps, and let me come and speak.

But then whoever sponsored me would probably have to go through the inquisition and blacklist which confronted the chairman of the meeting that invited Signor de Los Rios to come and speak on Spain. Signor de Los Rios is the Ambassador of a friendly power in the United States, but the chairman of a meeting that invited him to speak was visited by the Monsignour of Jersey City, who backs up Mayor Hague, and queried as to whether he was a Communist. And it was made very clear to him that if he backed up the meeting his business would suffer.

What's Sauce For the Goose

I don't think that this is very bright of the Monsignour. He should take a look at Germany, where exactly the same thing is happening to priests of the church that is happening to CIO organizers in Jersey City, and against which this column has repeatedly protested.

Nor do I think it's very bright of the Chamber of Commerce in Jersey City to back up Mayor Hague in his suppression of all civil liberties for anybody who may be considered a "subversive influence." Some fine day, you know, there might be a labor government in Jersey City; strange things happen in this world, and then Mayor Hague will have established a beautiful pattern, which, if I know the dominant CIO psychology at present, they will follow. Then perhaps they will put Chamber of Commerce officials on ferries and ride them out of town, or pick up members of the American Manufacturers Association as vagrants and stick them in jail, and perhaps they will say, like Mayor Hague, "I am the law."

Earlier Days

News of 75 and 100 Years Ago From Files in the State Library at Raleigh

JANUARY 11, 1863
75 YEARS AGO

LEE'S MESSAGE TO THE ARMY

Headquarters Army of Northern Virginia General Orders No. 138.

1. The General commanding takes this occasion to express to the officers and soldiers of the army his high appreciation of the fortitude, valor and devotion displayed by them, which under the blessings of Almighty God have added the victory at Fredericksburg to the long list of their triumphs.

An arduous march, performed with similarity under many disadvantages exhibited the discipline and spirit of the troops and their eagerness to confront the foe.

The immense army of the enemy completed its preparations for the attack without interruption, and gave battle in its own time and on the ground of its own selection.

It was encountered by less than 20,000 of this brave army, and its columns, crushed and broken, hurled back at every point with such fearful slaughter that escape from entire destruction became the boast of those who had advanced in full confidence of victory.

The war is not yet ended. The enemy is still numerous and strong and the country demands a renewal of the heroic efforts in her behalf. Nobly has it responded to her call in the past and she will never appeal in vain to its courage and patriotism.

The signal manifestations of Divine Mercy that have distinguished the eventful and glorious campaign of the year just closed, give assurance of the hope that under guidance of the same Almighty Hand the coming year will be no less fruitful of events that will ensure the safety, peace and happiness of our beloved country, and add new luster to the already imperishable fame of the Army of Northern Virginia.

R. E. LEE, General.

—Fayetteville Observer.

Obey That Impulse

(Greensboro Record)

Says the Union Republican (Winston-Salem): "The associate editor can stand on the front porch of the residence on corner of West First and Marshall where he has been rooming for 14 years and toss a stone into four nearby houses which would hit a lawyer if the barristers were standing on the porch . . . ." The associate editor displays restraint, commendable or otherwise.

Aspirin-Minded

(Charleston News & Courier)

The Washington Star informs that more than 4,000,000 pounds of aspirin were used in the United States in a year. Perhaps the headaches caused by the New Deal have produced the increased consumption.