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THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 27, 1941

Police War

Hostilities With Japan Should Be Very Proper

Those hocus-pocus discussions with Japan have ended abruptly in exactly the same situation as they began. There wasn't the slightest bit of suspense in the little drama because everybody knew how it was coming out.

Judge Hull has handed Messrs Nomura and Kurama a "do-over" which, we suppose, makes everything official and polite. What the discussions lacked in accomplishment, they partially compensated for in polished manners and correct usage.

Neither Japan nor the United States would budge an inch from their positions, but they were adamant in an extremely affable way. Both nations have avowed that they loved peace and wished they would live in it, but...

(followed by a properly wistful sigh). Some aridly skeptical "comment" which, we suppose, makes everything official and polite.

Failure
Administration Fumbles
Price Control Again

After its lack of (1) a fair and workable labor policy and (2) ability to plan and manage the Defense effort efficiently, the Roosevelt Administration's most pressing defect is its failure to produce even a third-rate price control bill.

Oh, the boys have gone through the motions of drawing up a measure. And at the time they have been busy with appeasing all of the various pressure groups within and without the Administration, only a token remained.

Even the corpus defunct was so objectionable when it reached the floor of the House the other night that a flurry of amendments and debate threw the chamber into utter confusion.

There isn't much disagreement on what is needed: a law under which the Government can prevent the war-time curbing of supply and expansion of purchasing power from pushing prices up wildly. But on the means to accomplish such an end there is wide disagreement.

The Administration daren't essay the obvious and fix the standards of coal-commodities and so forth.

Instead, it wants to license commodity dealers and engage in large-scale buying and selling of commodities. This is the hard way—and the expensive one, as Hoover's Farm Board demonstrated.

Just as the price of commodities is controlled by this vast Government apparatus, wages would still be free to rise, and by so much to justify higher commodity prices.

While the months-old fight over the bill goes on, prices continue to rise in a dizzying manner. Everybody knows, except those who have been in Washington, that numerous but unfortunate speculators, the consumer.

A Lacing

Roosevelt Apologizes For and Punishes Time

When it cracks, the Roosevelt temper is not a pretty thing. Provoked by an item in Time magazine, it split wide open this week.

Time delights in making minor personal references to the people it describes. These references are not always flattering.

For instance, on Nov. 17 Time reported that the sailing President Aguirre Cerda had "spent more and more time with the red wine he cultivates." Eight days later Aguirre Cerda died.

President Roosevelt, fearing further comment of the already none-too-pleasant U. S. Chamber of Commerce, went to great lengths in explaining and apologizing to Cerda's family. The American Government apologized formally to Aguirre Cerda's Chief Executive shortly after the latter's death.

As an official, he has chided the daily news. Roosevelt had never used such words. Editor-Publisher Henry Jones, stung by the denunciation, said "probably" was motivated by a sense of international politics.

Prisoners

For Does Things To Their Appearance

All military prisoners, we are about to conclude, look alike. Back in 1939, when the newspapers began to picture batches of captured Poles, it seemed certain that never had so many distinguished, disreputable looking individuals ever fallen into the hands of any army.

The French prisoners were pretty bad, too, but when the British began sending over pictures of the hastily Italian hordes captured in Wavell's Libyan drive — boy! They were awful looking.

My records gave way, however, when pictures of the Russian prisoners straggled in from the Eastern Front. These, we had concluded, were the ultimate in human degradation. Animals.

Our boys, we said to ourselves, could never look like that even in capture. Then came the American "Blue" Army's prisoners, and I was convinced.

Second Look
Compulsory Arbitration Has Its Complications

On the theory of any old poet in a storm, compulsory arbitration by the Federal Government of labor disputes in Defense plants looks like an excellent idea for meeting a critical situation. But before going whole hog for a further allocation of power to a centralized government power which involves the fixing of wages and so the fixing of production costs and so the tipping off of one more segment of the American system of free enterprise, it may be well to devote some consideration to it.

Just as the Government has been roughly tied up with certain labor leaders and angered by strikes in Defense plants, compulsory arbitration seems not only safe enough but highly advisable.

But the labor record of this Administration, its political favoring, the irreparable parceling of the senatorial and boards (excepting the Mediation Board) it has created to deal with labor disputes, should raise the question of its fitness to be entrusted with greater control over wages and hours than it has already assumed.

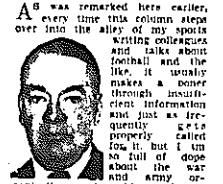
Belle, suppose that Federal arbiters handed down a decision which was not acceptable to the union affected. Is there any way by which the Government could force the members of that union to work? There is not. About the only recourse would be to revoke the union's designation as a collective bargaining agent in the plant affected, to abrogate its privileges, such as seniority and union recognition, and to declare jobs in the plant open to all comers.

Even then the crucial test of the Government's authority and its resolution would come in the field. Would it maintain the order without which men would never dare to present themselves for work?

It's easy enough for the Government to deal with individual industry is more vulnerable to official pressure, and at the worst the Government can always take over plants and keep them going. But in dealing with refractory labor leaders and militant labor unions, the Government has got to assume the role of strike-breaker, whether it likes the part or not. Our present Government would defeat it, and there is nothing to show that it would be well cast.

Our New Courage

By Hugh S. Johnson



As was remarked here earlier, A every time this column sets over into the ally of my sports writing colleagues...

College Teams Don't Know When They're Beat

Furthermore, this column is coming to be only incidentally a sports column, and as I can see it coming on now, will inevitably wind up with something about the White House. It seems to me that the quality of this year's football season, both college and professional, has a very special significance, because it is so riddled with defeatism.

Normal Survives Starvation Logic

Since the first French disaster just before Dunkirk exactly the same logic is being used to justify most of the fighting in this war. When its history is written and read with care, it is a lesson in the greatest survival of the fittest.

New Recruits Judged By Higher Standards

It is a lot of talk about the high caliber of new recruits, especially in the draft, for physical, cultural, and some other reasons. But the standards among our young men since 1918. This strange remarking of the standards of the World War and for this war. It is not nearly so strange, in fact, if it is shown to be of no significance. If you examine the selective requirements in the regulations for physical examination in the military service in this war.

Burning Question Hits Onslow County

Some of the gang got into one terrific argument the other night, and when the time came of "What came first, the chicken or the egg?" Ten minutes in yet into any discussion of it here, because we'd probably be fighting it out about this time next year.

Senator Soapers Says

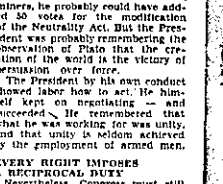
It's a small world and, according to the senator, it is getting smaller. They're naming battles for congressional news, as well as oceans.

Senator Soapers Says

Despite his playboy activities and the fact that he is a senator, Tommy Manville's fortune keeps piling up, which seems to be the case of many other senators.

Permanent Labor Laws

By Dorothy Thompson



I HAD the President been willing to "crack down" on the coal miners, he probably could have added a voice to the multiplication of the neutrality act. But the President was probably remembering the observation of John D. Rockefeller, the creation of the world is the victory of persistence over force.

Every Right Imposes A Reciprocal Duty

Whenever Congress must consider legislation to prevent recurrent setbacks to production. In considering labor legislation Congress will do well to build from principle rather than hasten into "emergency" decrees. A basic principle of democracy is that every right entails a reciprocal duty. The right of legislation should not be to make it the responsibility commensurate with its power. For power without responsibility corrupts, and absolute power corrupts absolutely.

No Grips Can Be Above The Law

It is obvious, if we are arguing from principle and not from prejudice, no closed shops should be allowed except where they are regulated by law, for no private organization should be allowed to exercise that much power except in conformity with a code of fair practice. There can be no groups in this country that are above the law and above the community. The very fact of the growing power of unions demands that they accept social disciplines.

Secret Ballot Needed For Strike Votes

Strike votes are taken by voice, and union officials have many ways of compelling workers to support their policies. All strike votes and all elections should be taken by secret ballot and in supervised elections, and after a cooling-off period in which the issues can really be discussed by the rank and file. And all workers should be protected against intimidation of any kind. Tribunals should be established in every industry.

Sabotage Precaution

By Raymond Clapper



HOWEVER it may be represented by others, the sabotage of American troops to Dutch Guiana is regarded as a defense precaution, even though it may be related to other moves involving the Dutch East Indies.

One Class Gets Too Powerful - It Falls

In the long run, any class acquires disproportionate power by means of organized pressure, and uses that power against the public weal, then all the other classes will gang up against it, as the experience of Italy, Germany and France has shown. And there is one thing that is a rule of social reactions: If the incompetent attempts to paralyze the competent, the competent will revolt. No group can exist from society unless it makes a contribution. Wealth is neither created nor destroyed, but it is the creation of a complex productive system in which capital, technical, managerial, labor and public relations all play a due part, and each with its relative status in the scheme of things.

Ten Little Anti-Nazis

Manchester Guardian
A rhyming poem popular among German refugees translated: Ten little naziing boys once were sitting in a room. One captured the Goebbels well then there were nine.

That "Crazy" Shelter Belt

The Chicago Daily Times
Just for the record, from time to time as an expert reporter on the state of the world, I have written all "monstrous" projects ever devised by New Deal "progressives" — the famous "shelter belt" of terra planted across the whitened plains where trees would grow.

No Winter Slowdown On This Front

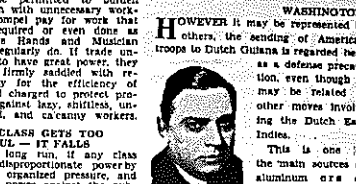
By Herblock
Two little naziing boys once were sitting in a room. One turned in the DBC, then there were two.

Today's Bible Thought

God's Spirit will lift your burden, when none other can. Come unto me all ye that labor and are heavy laden and I will give you rest.—Matt. 11:28.

Visitin' Around

And Walk For The AAA Checks



And A Little Child Shall Lead Them (Quoted Item) Transylvania (Times) Born to Mr. and Mrs. Medford Chapman on Thursday, November 6, a son, Mr. and Mrs. Chapman now have four sons, enough to make a good mate quartette.

Two Rules of Relations

The primary rules govern the relations of the United States with Latin America. One is that we seek no territory. The other is that in all relations there is scrupulous deference toward the sovereignty and independence of other countries in the hemisphere.

One can poke back into our history and find episodes that violate these rules. But they are regarded by many Americans as shameful blot, not as characteristic actions.

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The Lure

(Avodale Item, Rutherford County News) The Woman's Society of Christian Service met with Mrs. J. F. Whitman Monday evening. A good crowd was present and delicious refreshments were served. Whitman is noted for her fine cooking.