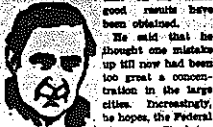


### IT SEEMS TO ME

BY HENRY HOPKINS  
M. HOPKINS, the "New York" reporter, had a long conference here Thursday, and among other things he talked about the Federal Theater. It is the opinion of Mr. Hopkins that this is a highly desirable government enterprise, and he thinks that the whole good result has been obtained.



He said that he thought one mistake on his part was that he had not been more frank in the large cities. He said that he thought the Government would not be fairly accused of handicapping private enterprise.

"Broadway managers," he commented, "have been saying for some time that the road is dead. If, through Federal enterprise, it can be revived, then private enterprise will have a field for its activities which it presently lacks."

Mr. Hopkins said that he thought the Government had a right to point with pride to the success of one of its graduates, Owen Wister, who is now giving great guns on his own with the Mercury Theater. There especially is a spot, he suggested, where the activities of the Federal Theater had been at least helpful in fostering a private enterprise.

Mr. Hopkins said that in the CCC camps there were thousands of young men who had never seen a play in their lives until the traveling Federal troupes came along their way.

Naturally somebody raised the question of the Government should also do what it should be in its own production. Mr. Hopkins confessed that it was almost impossible to draw and set a line, with one exception. He felt that the Government should properly be free from its own production material which was highly critical of any other friendly power. Beyond that the rule of reason would have to be used. He did not think that the Federal Theater should limit itself merely to the production of familiar, old-time-tried plays. One of its important functions, he believes, is to foster "creative" writing talent.

He said that the cry of "Federal propaganda" had been raised in regard to the Living Newspaper and other Federal Theater projects. But he added that he thought that almost all plays of recent years represented the theater's point of view about something or other, and that anybody who undertook to argue for a notion was in a sense a propagandist. Mr. Hopkins is among the many who feel that it is impossible to set down a line and say that on one side of it lies art and on the other propaganda.

It is true that the Federal Theater has gathered for itself quite a large collection of sacred titles. It has been reposed for productions which seemed to some too radical, and on the other hand, there have been claims from the left because "The Cradle Will Rock" was about the Cradle Will Rock.

Indeed, the most savage satire on the Government's activities in the theater is a sketch in "Pins and Needles" produced by the International Ladies' Garment Workers Union. That is impressed upon my mind because I was so much struck by the Cradle Will Rock when I first saw it that I ran around backstage and introduced myself to Marc Blitzstein, the author. We sat down and talked about the theater in general, and I expressed the opinion that "Cradle" had much more bite than "Pins and Needles."

"The only really mean thing in 'Pins and Needles,'" I said, "is the slip at the Federal Theater, and I think that a labor group should not attack government functioning in theatrical production. I thought that sketch was terrific. 'You may be right,' said Mr. Blitzstein. 'I wrote it.' Just the same I was right."

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### Our Estimate Of McKellar Is Approved

Tennessee Cotton Man Agrees On Patronage Hunting Senator From His State

Dear Sir: My friend, V. B. Stinson, sent me a few days ago a copy of your editorial of January 28 regarding Senator McKellar. You certainly have a great knowledge about this fellow, even if you are a long way from him, and I am wondering if I could buy about a dozen copies of the paper containing the editorial so that I could give it some real needed publicity. I am sorry I cannot come in and shake hands with you.

C. G. HENRY, Genl. Mgr.  
Mid-South Cotton Growers Assn.  
Memphis.

### GRANGE CALLS FOR VIEWS OF CANDIDATES IT SUPPORTS

Dear Sir: We are sending the following letter to all North Carolina Granges today, and requesting it to be read:

"Room will select senators and representatives to serve in the next session of the General Assembly. It is important that we ascertain the viewpoint of all candidates on major questions that affect the welfare of the state. Consideration should be given to the following objectives agreed upon by the North Carolina State Grange at our recent session, in selecting those who shall represent your county or district in the next Legislature:

"The present tax system—The last Legislature reduced to grant owners a 2000 tax exemption even after the amendments permitting exemptions up to \$1,000 had been approved by the voters with the greatest majority ever since an amendment to the constitution in the history of the state, but did grant three new \$300 exemptions never approved by the people as follows: \$300 on money on hand, \$300 on notes and mortgages, and \$300 on accounts receivable.

"Establishment of Twelfth Grade in Public Schools—Adding the twelfth grade to the state public school system will better prepare those for life who cannot attend college.

"Funds for Agricultural Research—North Carolina ranks near the bottom in sums appropriated for research. Research would be paid, and didn't want the dog to run mad, and new sources of wealth for our people. Sufficient sums should be appropriated out of the general fund of the State to match Federal money now available for this work.

"Rural Telephone System—Adding the twelfth grade to the state public school system will better prepare those for life who cannot attend college.

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### BELIEVE IT OR NOT

By Ripley  
ON FEBRUARY 1938, PAID \$30,000 FOR A SINGLE WORD. HE PAID THIS SUM AS A BRIBE TO THE GRAND VIZIER OF TURKEY FOR INFLUENCING THE SULTAN TO GRANT HIM THE TITLE OF 'KHEDIVE'—A PERSIAN WORD MEANING 'RULER.'



Explanation of Today's Cartoon  
PRICE OF A SINGLE WORD—Ismail I, Khedive of Egypt (1863-1882), came to the throne in 1863 and four years later paid \$30,000 for a single word. He paid Fuzul Pasha, Grand Vizier of Turkey, this sum as a bribe, so that Fuzul might influence the Sultan to permit Ismail to assume the title of Khedive, a Persian word meaning Prince or Ruler.

### CITY HALL TOPICS

I HEARTILY applaud the Council's refusal to halt its tax suit against the really concerned with large holdings and also with large unpaid tax bills. The Pending Sale attorney for the delinquent taxpayer came before the Council to get a specific date when settlement would have to be complete. All he wanted was that the proceedings be halted so that the judgment would not be entered against the company and interfere with a sale of the property.

In the past, it has been the too-common practice of real estate operators to conduct their business on the basis of letting the taxes on their property remain unpaid until a sale was made. Then, in order to transfer the property with clear title, the taxes would be paid. That means that the City was financing their operations. To be sure, this was an unfair practice—unfair in preference to those who followed such a policy, and unfair to the general citizenship which had to pay the taxes.

I recall one prominent realty operator who some years ago appeared at the City Hall, and asked the Council to install ornamental electric light standards in his development, solely on the grounds that he was a high class development and merited such high class standards for street lights. Of course, the request was denied.

Such an attitude is too prevalent and the present Council should be commended for its determined stand for forcing payment of taxes that have long been due. Failure of these large taxpayers to pay up their past due accounts is one reason why the revenues for the current year are about \$45,000 short of the estimate. If this money is not collected, the City will have to go to the banks and borrow. And why should the general costs of government be increased by the expenditures for interest simply because some want to pay their taxes?

It has been so many years of questioning to us why ever a man's City Staff workers, such as those employed by the City, were not included in the national social security program. But they weren't and it is reasonable and commendable that the Council is considering a plan for the retirement of municipal employees. Those who sell in the public service, as I have pointed out here before, will reach 65 years of age, and will find the infirmities of old age, and will find the necessities of life just as much as any other worker.

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Up, Cotton! Down, Steel!  
At least it's helpful to have the President outline the administration's views on prices, and one thing that those views are comprehensible. If we take two commodities for example, the whole business will be illustrated in a jiffy. The price of steel ought to come down. The price of cotton ought to go up. The result would be a balance which alone produces peak activity in employment and general business.

It is almost unanimously agreed by the economists that the one thing which enabled the country to catch a flying glimpse of prosperity was inflation. The inflation of government spending in excess of revenues—in short, deficit financing. It was this tremendous outlay, which found its way into consumption, that made business profitable at highest price levels, and it was this outlay that was a large part of this inflationary spending that brought on the recession. The economists agree that its resumption would bring prosperity back for awhile, at least, but they differ among themselves as to how long it will last. Some think it will be kept up without killing the goose that lays the golden eggs.

And the alternative to further Federal spending, which is to say inflation and the maintenance of high prices, is deflation. And that's a horrible word, and it's not a word that is used in a complimentary sense. But there is no way to bring steel prices down against the will of the steelmakers except by letting them sweat through a spell of deflation—and that isn't going to be fun for any of us.

When Bob Meets Bob  
The proposal that the Federal Government build eight million dollars' worth of super-highways was laid before the Senate by Senator R. R. (The Bob) Reynolds. It was a proposal that says in one of his frequent statements, meant to give his constituents the impression of a statesman at work, that he approaches his study of the super-highway proposal with an "open mind."

Bob Reynolds intimated the other day that he was in a mind to open. The two North Carolinians had a bit-at-statements over the undistributed profits tax. Repeat it, quoth Robert. "I presume," retorted the cogitant Chairman of the Ways and Means Committee, Senator Reynolds, as usual, has made a comprehensive and painstaking study of the subject."

But the effects playing and world economy from the resort city of Asheville has not, for all his charm and good nature, always been a hard-headed livestock raiser from the little town of Laurel Springs. You can't fool an old horse-trader.

Cut Out of a Bag  
It is a little puzzling to know what the 60 Pennsylvania firms which have gone into Dauphin County Court and got an injunction against the 44-hour-week law recently passed by the Legislature, may hope to gain by their action. And it is harder still to understand on what ground the judge in the case based his decision to issue the writ. Perhaps there are obscure questions involved, but primarily the matter seems to be simply one of the State's right to limit the work week to 44 hours.

Such a limit may be open to question on its wisdom, but that the states have a right to fix maximum hours would seem to be one of the things most clearly beyond dispute. It was never anything but, in one measure or another, for the last fifty years. Moreover, the Pennsylvania litigation seems to be weakening what has been one of the favorite arguments of employers against Federal wage-and-hour regulation—that the states are best equipped to deal with local conditions. If the states are to be challenged and endlessly held up by legal battles and rulings, the champions of Federal wage-and-hour control will be able to sell on it as final proof of the pressing need for their measures.

Note on Justices  
Cramer's Law of Libel and Slander (Cramer's Law of Libel and Slander) is a book that is well worth a read. It is a book that is well worth a read. It is a book that is well worth a read.

Sailors Without Sails  
Some students of mankind profess to believe that the male person is becoming effeminate, what with striking, too much manners, doing a great deal of milk, no longer showing his fellows out of the way, and making "badon me" as an opportunity. They may be right.

Certainly the antics of a sailor in Baltimore give support to the theory. The headline over the accounts of the antics of a sailor in Baltimore is "Loud, Loud, Loud." The antics of a sailor in Baltimore give support to the theory.

Visiting Around  
Here the Comes, O Summers! (Chapel Hill Weekly) is a book that is well worth a read. It is a book that is well worth a read. It is a book that is well worth a read.

Good Luck to You, Snowball (Richmond County Journal) is a book that is well worth a read. It is a book that is well worth a read. It is a book that is well worth a read.

One More Wilecrack (Billy Arliss, New Bern Tribune) is a book that is well worth a read. It is a book that is well worth a read. It is a book that is well worth a read.

A New War Customer (Payetteville Observer) is a book that is well worth a read. It is a book that is well worth a read. It is a book that is well worth a read.

Another Change of Base (Payetteville Observer) is a book that is well worth a read. It is a book that is well worth a read. It is a book that is well worth a read.

Earlier Days (Payetteville Observer) is a book that is well worth a read. It is a book that is well worth a read. It is a book that is well worth a read.

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