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And Evening Chronicle

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The Drummers

Salomon Facing Trouble
Are Democracy at Work

No one, not even the salomons themselves, had realized there were so many traveling men in Charlotte. An estimated 1,000 of them packed a big ballroom last night, called together to take some steps to save their livelihood in the face of gasoline rationing. Those men, representing thousands of other citizens, hundreds of business firms and, indirectly, many an industry dependent upon them, had no protests. This was no indignation meeting.

They came, indeed, in the familiar jovial mood of the American drummer—though few of them will be able to hold their jobs under present regulations. An outsider might have surmised he had stumbled upon a friendly smoker. There were jokes and hecklers. There was an appreciative roar when Chairman E. B. Vought said, "This is one of the world's greatest festivities, and one of the worst organized."

As they settled, one old veteran growled, "I don't want a man who's black-ban on patriotic." But the men opened with a prayer, pledged allegiance to the flag, and went about their business calmly. Not one, except a strange filibuster who, in a hoarse, holed-down, was the unfortunates of Eastern rationing criticized in contrast to non-rationing in other states.

No grievances were shouted. Those men knew as they came that the war, and its by-product, through no fault of theirs, had at least temporarily halted them as breadwinners. And they hadn't come to talk about non-essential users, or free gas in the rest of the country. They wanted action, and tried to get it in the sanest, business-like fashion. Those were not the old days, salomons of the former daughter tales.

For them, Martin Cannon struck the pitch. "If sectional discrimination is necessary in this program, then Washington should tell us the whys and wherefores, that's all." The men agreed with that. They didn't want to march on Washington. They wanted to make carry that far. They wanted relief, and the attitude of every man made it apparent that they were certain relief would come.

The salomons, in the language of their chairman, approached their problem with justice. The 28 gallons of gas available to them with the start of the new program was explained to them, and they all knew it wasn't enough. They all felt it was no fair share, but refrained from saying that.

Because they were ordinary Americans, faced by trouble and trouble as real as those things can be, their reaction was heartening. To a patriotic philosopher, it might have been sort of thrilling. There was the answer of decent democracy, and that, whether or not they get more gasoline to carry on their work, seemed the most important phase of that meeting.

As they made plans to meet another week the old veteran growled again, "Hell, if we get gas, there won't be nobody here." That too would be typical Democracy.

Fair-Haired Boys

Labor Is Exempted From
The Sacrifices of War

The unorganized millions of people in the country may well envy the policy established by the War Labor Board in the Little Steel case. In sharp contrast to the rigid take-it-and-leave-it ceilings placed over prices and rents, and the confiscatory taxation upon personal and corporate incomes, the board has decided to hitch wages to the cost of living. As that cost of living has risen in the past months, Labor, the board rules, is entitled to have its wages raised as that cost of living may continue to rise, raised in proportion to the rise.

The board's problem was difficult. Evidently the President had wished on his statement to the country last April—

"Do you work for wages? You will have to forego higher wages for your part in the war for the duration of the war," and had directed the board to work out a compromise between the public's interest, which runs counter to the inflationary effect of wage-increases, and Labor's interest. The result was an interesting and novel formula which neither placates Labor nor strikes at the base of the waterfront of inflation.

What it does is arbitrarily to select a date (Jan. 1, 1941) when the cost of

living was low and wages were high, and from that date on to assure Labor of wage-increases in proportion to increases in the cost of living. The board resolves, in short, that Labor's peace-time standards shall be preserved. The unorganized, unrepresented rest of us may get along as best we can, making as our contribution to the war effort whatever sacrifices are required of us.

The high irony of it is that favored Labor may rebel and kick over the traces because it did not get the whole dollar at its demands. At this writing the situation in the Little Steel area is described as "tense," and there is some threat to challenge the authority of the War Labor Board if a strike should develop, the country would be awakened to the character of these soldiers in its industrial army. Mercenaries would be the term.

Negatives

Three Councilmen Display
A Petty Obstinacy

Before the City Council meets again with a sufficient number of Iron Dukes on hand to appoint the members of the two Negro special police officers, we think that Councilmen Albee, Ward and Hows should be criticized for their action in preventing passage of the resolution at the previous meeting. It became neither their sense of responsibility nor their open-mindedness.

Negro special officers were, in the beginning, a radical innovation. They had been tried with good result in other Southern cities. In some of them as full-fledged police officers, and reports from police chiefs in those cities were wholly favorable. Still, any Councilmen were justified in their claim to vote against their employment, but in voting against it now, simply out of prejudice or politics or pettiness, they haven't a leg to stand on.

Experience in Charlotte, one of the most viciously-armed cities in the South, has clearly shown that Negro officers can be used in Negro sections with excellent result. Far from being discontinued, the experiment ought to be broadened. These officers in pairs might be assigned to every thickly-populated Negro section.

At the worst, the employment of the two present Negro officers should without question have been extended for another year. For these three Councilmen to have opposed it arbitrarily is a self-cast reflection on their ability to learn new lessons.

Stick 'Em Up!

London's Cause for Alarm
Would Be Millionaire Here

So disturbed was Britain's House of Commons at the report of an increase in highway robbery in London that a member proposed death before a firing squad as war-time punishment for this crime. The Government, however, refused to adopt any such extreme measure.

The increase which alarmed Parliament is worth examining with an eye to conditions in the city of Charlotte. N. C. In London, pop. 8,202,818, cases of robbery or assault with intent to rob had gone up from 75 in the first six months of 1941 to 85 in the corresponding period of 1942, a total of 160 for the twelve months.

In Charlotte, pop. 160,000, cases of robbery reported to the police for the calendar year 1941 were 72. Reduced to a per capita basis, Charlotte's robbery rate—and the crime is comparable to what is called highway robbery in England—has 72 cases, as against 12.000 per capita. At that rate, London would have had, instead of 160 cases for the year, 5,905.

To put it still another way, Charlotte is, roughly and roughly is the words 400 times more alive to highway robbery than London. The statistic, however, will bring forth an suggestion of firing squads over here. To the contrary, this American city accepts vice and crime as a heritage, something inherent in the American Way.

Every handout at the East beach of last year's ball at an East beach ball has been called to the colors. Under the circumstances, Dora sees no point in not knowing how to swim.

Frouch has now happened to indicate the British can do as well as war, without getting it up in the form of a ballet.

Side Glances



"I wonder what we're supposed to do—shoot the enemy or trample them to death?"

Now The "Independents"

Labor Complexity

By Jay C. Hayden

FURTHER complication of the already tangled set-up of American organized labor is forecast in the call for a national conference of "unaffiliated independent labor unions" dispatched by the Mechanical Educational Society of America to 61 other unions this week. The call, signed by Matthew Smith, national secretary of the MESEA, declares that the meeting to be held in Chicago July 25-26, will discuss:

"1. The calling of a proportionate representation conference.
"2. The possibility of setting up of an independent federation of labor for the purpose of coordinating activities of all existing independent unions."

The letter stipulates that "all organizations accepting this invitation must prove they are completely free from direct or indirect company domination or influence."

The MESEA, while it is numerically small in comparison with any one of the big four of American labor—the AFL, CIO, Railroad Brotherhoods and John L. Lewis's United Mine Workers—is no fly-by-night in the union field. Beginning ten years ago as a strictly craft union of locally skilled tool and die makers, it now claims a dues-paying membership of more than 42,000.

By threatening to strike the MESEA four months ago succeeded in forcing recognition of itself by the War Production Board on matters with the AFL and CIO and the row thus engendered certainly contributed toward the displacement of Sidney Hillman from directorship of the labor division of WPB. The MESEA charged that Hillman had refused to even so much as talk with its representatives and that he was "using his department as a medium for advancing CIO organization in the detriment of rival labor groups."

Donald M. Nelson, chairman of the WPB, who took the MESEA "threat" most seriously, is reported in all committee dealing with issues in which its membership was involved, and a few days later Mr. Hillman stepped out.

There are several characteristics of the MESEA as expounded by its officials, which make its projection one of a new labor group more than ordinarily significant. First, MESEA is remarkably democratic in its organization. All officers are elected by the rank and file. Voting membership in its conventions there are no delegates voting membership on the basis of dues or proxies. Paid officers of the union sit ex-officio and are permitted to speak, but they are forbidden to vote.

Because they regard the closed shop, including provision for employer collection of dues from pay envelopes, as a device primarily for the purpose of union infiltration, MESEA officials say their membership would never stand for it.

Members belonging to any other union are admitted to the MESEA with no initiation fee. The opposite is true of MESEA members choosing plants where the CIO or AFL control. The maximum initiation fee of the MESEA in any case is two dollars and its monthly dues one dollar. All funds stay with the locals excepting 40 cents per member per month, constituting for support of the national organization.

The last thing they want now, the MESEA officials insist, is the creation of another cost union holding company ruled from the top, on the basis of the AFL and CIO. Rather they assert, their purpose is to preserve for mutual help in existing both super-union and Government domination.

Altogether, the MESEA officials calculate, there are a million of men scattered in organizations unaffiliated with either the National Labor Relations Board.

It is not likely that all of the organizations invited to the Chicago meeting will participate. In the list, for example, are the Railroad Unions not affiliated with the AFL, the Typographical Union, which recently split with the AFL, and the Union of Federal Employees, which likewise withdrew from the AFL and ever since has been bound by its constitution not to join any labor federation.

Editors, The News:
I do not believe in dictators. I am a hundred per cent for our present form of Government by the people and I think that in order to make certain of winning this war, we should make President Roosevelt dictator for the duration.

The war our politicians are fighting against themselves is nothing more than a crowd of children fighting over playthings with no growth in the mind. It seems to me no difference what orders are sent out from Washington.

All of them are jumped upon by a bunch of special-interest politicians and newspapers—and the impression left with the people is that it is a crowd of children fighting over playthings with no growth in the mind. It seems to me no difference what orders are sent out from Washington.

It is a fact that the people, or a vast majority of them, are not really concerned about this war. They are more concerned with the war in Washington than with the war against the Axis, because special interests and news newspapers are carrying on as they see fit.

Can the people be blamed? No. What we need is one man to give the orders and see his power to see that they are obeyed, or that the offenders are slapped in jail for the duration.

I believe we will win this war, but I also believe that the people are going to have to wake up in our dream before we do. And they are not going to wake up as long as the Government tells them to sacrifice, and the politicians

[Right Fair Democrats]

RED Heard From

By Paul Mallon

WASHINGTON
ONE day last week the farm lobbyists trooped unobserved into a closed session of a Senate appropriations subcommittee. In line they came, representatives of the American Farm Bureau Federation, the Grange, the U. S. Live Stock group. The newspapers did not find out about it.

Next day a peculiar amendment headed with poison arrows for Lenin Henderson, the Price Administration, appeared strangely in the annual appropriation bill for the Office of Price Administration which the subcommittee had been handling. This amendment said Mr. Henderson shall not fix the price ceiling on farm products—of even processed goods, like cotton shirts and leather shoes—which does not reflect 110 per cent of parity back to the farmers.

Everyone said it was merely a restatement of existing law, but no one bothered to explain why the farm lobbyists felt it necessary to restate such a law in an appropriation bill dealing with other matters. To the initiated in this peculiar political farm business, however, it was evident that the farm lobbyists had set out to break up Mr. Henderson's price policy.

Kill the OPA Program

The amendment would cause Henderson to abandon his present program, to open thousands of price items in the farm and process schedule, and this time follow Agriculture Secretary Wickard's direction to fix much higher prices than now allowed—prices which would give the farmer that 110 per cent parity index.

The farm lobbyists and their Congressional bloc took it in the long run and they were quick to inform Mr. Henderson, because he has not followed the law they wrote for him in the first place. They felt tricked too.

Some months ago they succeeded in enacting provisions which they thought would give Agriculture Secretary Wickard veto power over Henderson and would assure the farmer his 110 per cent parity. Mr. Roosevelt stopped that by omnisciently informing the world in general just particularly

Mr. Wickard that Mr. Wickard worked for him and would be expected to follow his wishes.

Henderson never consulted Wickard on anything except wool at the outset and later on fruits and vegetables.

Lately, Mr. Wickard has rejected hands with farm lobbyists and is supposed to be working on Mr. Roosevelt to get an approval of the pending separate bill granting 100 per cent parity to farmers. Mr. Roosevelt's budget director has approved this, although some authorities suspect that such a permanent step would put all private trading out of business.

Parity, Parity, What's That?

On the other hand and in the other corner, Mr. Henderson is mad as a hornet. He is particularly angry at Wickard for having written him the recent letter forcing him to boost the prices on dried and canned fruits, which he had set to reflect less than 110 per cent parity. He held an off-the-record press conference to vent his anger. Some of the words he used were former's than the American farmer customarily employ when they go into a drive on a Jap ship.

The farmer's goal for years has been 100 per cent parity, and now that the war has brought it in sight, the farm bloc seems greedy in seeking the 110 per cent. Yet the average farm income is much less than the nation's average. Farm labor costs are practically doubled and a shortage exists.

Furthermore, the Administration has let labor break through its economic ceiling in some few lines and is supposed to be about to increase the whole labor scale in the "little steel" test case.

But as far as justice to all the people is concerned, it is obvious that a breakdown of the Henderson effort at this early date would hold the nation into a dangerous inflationary realm. Prices would be forced up abnormally by either farm or labor concessions and start a destruction of values, the end of which no one can perceive.

Only one decision is possible for Mr. Roosevelt. He wants to protect the interests of all. He must stop both the farm and labor blocs.

Good News for the Axis

—By Herblock



Cleveland Found Out

What Price Bombers?

From The Christian Science Monitor

CLEVELAND knows how much one of three giant four-motored bombers cost. It knows how much it costs to buy one, raising it in war production plants and school classrooms and in little buy-a-bomber-for-MacArthur banks that were scattered all over the city. Obtaining the funds for the bomber took three months, and long months they were too, for the MacArthur Club had conquered the drive. But, penny by penny, nickel by nickel, dollar by dollar, the money came in, and now there is an Army Flying Fortress called "Spirit of Cleveland," which knows but what every now it may be flying with hundreds of other bombers out over enemy territory to achieve some military objective.

Buying that one bomber was a big undertaking. Having raised the money—\$17,000.36, to be exact—the idea of great armadas of 1,000 or more planes flying over Nazi factories and airfields now has greater meaning. Just to purchase one bomber, which may have only a few hours of combat life, they had to organize a campaign that eventually reached out over several counties in Northern Ohio and, before the first goal was reached, received contributions from more than half a million individuals.

Drive Opened Modestly

All for one bomber. But \$17,000.36 is a lot of money, and to raise it was no simple task. The "Spirit of Cleveland" plane is much more than just one airplane; it is a symbol. When the campaign was started on March 22, it was conceived as an outgrowth of Cleveland's response to General MacArthur's stirring words when, after flying to Australia from the Hawaiian Peninsula, he said: "I came through, and I'll return."

Hugh Kane, acting editor of the Cleveland News, was the one who initiated the move to organize a MacArthur Club, and his newspaper saw the thing through. The campaign began very modestly. An Army sergeant, home on furlough, gave \$2. The bomber seemed a long way off.

The first week was the hardest. It took that long

to reach the first \$1,000 mark. Then The News matched that amount, and the drive was really on. House clerks, steel workers, clothing workers, school children, expatriates, office workers joined in. Workers took up collections in their plants. Even in many cases matched what the employers in their shops gave. Some plants held "MacArthur day" days, the workers giving their day's pay to the bomber fund.

On April 11, the MacArthur Club had \$10,000. On April 18, it had \$22,000. On April 25, it had \$40,000. Though hushers, living hushers! It was a long, hard run. But when the fund reached the \$100,000 level on May 6, the donations began to roll like snowballs. Unhappy pictures in three counties gave an entire day's pay. Lunch hour prep meetings were held in factories. Public and parochial schools held "MacArthur Day."

On June 8, the fund passed the \$200,000 mark. Outfitted municipalities joined in, staging suburban "MacArthur" campaigns. Nickels and dimes and quarters jingled in small tin containers placed around town in restaurants, drug stores, candy stores, delicatessens. Factory workers made posters, such as one that read: "This department has contributed 100 per cent to the MacArthur Bomber. Has You?"

The Secretary of the Treasurer, Montgomery, the Cleveland "MacArthur Club" wrote out check for \$10,000.36, and delivered it to him in Washington on June 25, almost three months after the drive started. The campaign began. And now Cleveland knows, very well, how much a big, four-motored bomber costs—nine bomber that will take five times as much as the first one.

Some Chicken!
The New Yorker
ADELINE DE WALT REYNOLDS at the age of 16 is realizing a life-long ambition to become an actress.

Life has been a series of exciting adventures since the day when, five years ago, she stomped through the limousine bay on the family farm in Union, Iowa, to announce to her stern father that she intended to become an actress. She was roundly rebuffed.—The Post.
He's pretty enterprising, for his age, too.