

THE CHARLOTTE NEWS



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W. C. Dowd Jr., President
Burke Davis, Editor
and General Manager
Mrs. Cornelia Dowd Jones, Secy.

Dixie Touch
Our Amazing Labor Record
Is An Old Southern Custom

In the ever-hotter fight against absenteeism and its evil effects upon American war production, Congress might do well to follow the lead of its investigating committee, and weigh the livable asset of Southern shipbuilders. Three giant concerns, Higgins of New Orleans, Newport News and North Carolina Shipbuilding at Wilmington, have whole many a half-crippled yard look shabby by comparison so far as labor relations are concerned.

and regrets that the State might hear. We're of the opinion that the vote (60-20 in the House and unanimously in the Senate) should be allowed to stand without further comment. It's too late now for shivers.

For our part, we can't see Governor Broughton abusing the broad powers given him, nor yet can we peer into the future and vision a despot under way who might feel constrained to give North Carolina a Huey Long-styled regime. No, when the biennial surge in the course of empire takes its way West again, and Greg Cherry or Major L. P. McLendon or another climbs the throne, we dare say there will be no attempt to crush the tender heart of the people, so generously exposed by the General Assembly.

The law-makers, having done the deed, need have no fears. This bill is only a standard, every-day instrument used in many states to allow the Governor and his staff to circumvent slow-moving, out-dated systems of statute, so that the quickly-spoken challenges of the time may be met. Governor Broughton may be trusted to use these powers to work for the greater good of North Carolina until the next session of the Legislature brings relief. We see it as not so much of a veto power as a pure-and-simple weapon for emergency. We see no danger in its use.

Sidelight
Sweet and Baby Are
Delightful Exemptions

George Lawrence, helping Oregon Norwood, the campus grass-mower, figure out how far below zero his taxable income would be, told him he had to give the names of his eight children under eighteen years old. When the Negro came to the fourth child he hesitated, scratched his head, and said: "I can't remember her name. We just can't remember. So the child was listed as Sweet on the income tax return. The next three names were reeled off rapidly, and then there was another halt. Again Oregon gave signs of trying hard to jog his memory, but it was no use. "I'm sorry," he said. "I can't remember his name, either. We just call him Baby." So Mr. Lawrence listed the eighth child as Baby.

We ran across that human little item in The Chapel Hill Weekly under the name of Louis Graves, and it struck and sank so in the soft spots that we've wasted more precious leisure than we can spare these times in reflecting upon it.

Who can imagine, in these hard-boiled days of bureaucracy, the course of these two piddling monkeys through the Washington labyrinth? Who, laboring in the complex machinery of our tax system, will come to grin with homesickness at the sight of a little exemption by the name of "Sweet"? Who, finding some flaw in the tax return of Law-Mover Oregon, will have the heart to raise the cry with No. 8 styled simply as "Baby"? Don't know why an eye should be misted in such a fashion as this; but somehow, as we read, it seemed a slight more important that the head of that big family could remember only Sweet and Baby than that he bothered to file a return at all.

At fifty, a general in Africa is still in such shape he stands on his head each morning. It is marvelous, but no way to leave one's footprints on the sands.

Fear Not
Governor's War Powers
Not To Be Misconstrued

We have long deplored the popular fashion for viewing with alarm the least sign of a strong hand, equipped with strict powers for the accomplishment of a great task. Consequently, we have little patience with those legislators who, having voted for Governor Broughton's emergency war powers legislation, charge their doubts

Berchtesgaden 11-6191 is the phone number, in case you wondered. The after-midnight call is cheap, and whoozs won't mind, being up anyway with his insomnia.

Chorus girls, some of whom hardly knew the fellow, are collecting bequests left them by a wealthy New Yorker. They don't recall the face but the money could seem familiar.

It Can Be Checked
Creeping Inflation

THIS country has been saddled with warnings of impending inflation ever since the early thirties. The public has been solemnly admonished to take heed in time and put a stop to the thing that is sure to ruin us—the rapid increase of the Federal debt. But the debt went on increasing, and there was little or no sign of inflation, for nearly five years. Eventually the people began to suspect that the Cassandra did not know what they were talking about—which in this instance was indeed the case, since the warnings were based on what was then not a basic cause of inflation at all and is never anything more than a contributory factor.

But now the conditions underlying an increase in the public debt have altered. The danger of inflation, though non-existent in the thirties, has become urgent in the forties. In economic terms, it is the danger arising out of a volume of effective purchasing power in the country far in excess of the volume of civilian goods and services that can be brought at anything like current prices—something emphatically not true of the thirties. And if this purchasing power is not satisfied by taxes and various forms of saving, it will be offered for the inadequate supply of civilian goods and services. And then, in spite of price fixing and rationing and all and high water, there will be a disruptive rise in prices, which is inflation.

There is no use trying to deceive ourselves. We are already getting into inflation. It is not yet out-of-hand; it can still be kept under control. But only if we understand what it is and has been happening, and do something about it now. In the high emergency required of any democracy in time of crisis, the problem is essentially political. It requires public understanding and then the pressure of public opinion sufficient to break the deadlock that has developed between the Congress and the Executive over taxation, the control of prices, and so on. Perhaps the instrument will be Mr. Byrnes, whom the President has given the assignment of maintaining economic stability; whatever the time is now, next year may be too late.

stripped of technical verbiage, inflation is precisely what most people understand it to be: a large, general, and sustained rise in prices. The corollary effect, of course, is a substantial decrease in the value of money. The price rise must be large as well as sustained, since otherwise it might mean only the

sort of increase that is necessary to stimulate maximum output of goods and services. In fact the dividing line between the latter type and one that marks true inflation is not always clear-cut. The price rise must be general, otherwise it would be merely a series of adjustments within the price structure. And it must be sustained over a fairly long period, else it might be nothing more than an economic aberration, venacious enough to be sure, but righting itself within weeks or months. But let it be doubly certain that we are not using the term "inflation" to mean the kind of price rise required to stimulate maximum production of needed goods or services.

To repeat, we cannot have anything properly describable as inflation long as there is substantial unused capacity in manpower, equipment, and material to produce more than what money wants to buy. This was proved to the hilt during the thirties. Failure to understand it was the reason, especially during the pronounced rise of prices in 1933, for the theories that by subsequent events were made to sound so foolish.

An excess of effective purchasing power over the amount of wanted goods and services has the economic system call produce; here is always the root cause of inflation. Accompanying it and playing roles of varying magnitude, in different times and circumstances are a number of contributory causes, notably increasing costs of production, dislocations in foreign exchange, private bank credit expansion, and increasing public debt. Of these the most significant now is expanding public debt.

Because rapidly rising public debt accompanied inflation in Germany and France, and other countries, many laymen, and economists as well, jumped to the conclusion that there existed an inevitable cause-and-effect relationship between the two. They apparently did not remember, for instance, that in the years 1915-17, before our debt had started to increase at all, we had a pronounced inflation—more, in fact than we have had so far in this war. There was substantially full employment and an excess of purchasing power over purchasable goods and services. The shortages were caused by exports of war materials to Europe, which were financed mainly by foreign loans and all except of private bank credit. It is this misreading of the war's experience that has made it so hard to get Congressmen, much less their constituents, to recognize the inflation process now that it has finally appeared.

Private Warpath

—By Herblock



Declining Airpower
Where Is The Luftwaffe?

By Raymond Clapper

AMOST amazing and unexpected crackup in Axis airpower seems to be taking place. If it continues, and if it is as real as it appears to be, the war will hammer on the first rough shape of what we have dared to hope.

Anything can happen when you find that the incredible report of General MacArthur's air mission to the Japanese convey is substantially true. Our air forces put down an entire Japanese convoy of 22 ships, and brought down 82 planes. This was achieved with a loss of only three planes—or perhaps more when the mopping up work is counted in. That isn't attrition, it is annihilation at low cost.

At the other end the Axis enemy airpower also appears to be sagging. It has been little in evidence on the Russian front. The retaliatory German air blows on England in the last few days have been pathetically weak, hardly more than token raids. In Tunisia we have clear superiority in the air. For weeks military men on our side have been wondering where the German where they are beginning to conclude that the air force they thought was somewhere isn't anywhere.

This unquestionably is the result in part of the rapid growth of American aircraft production—5,500 planes last month, of which about 3,500 were combat planes. That is the big factor that will hammer on the first rough shape of Allied victory. That is the unanswerable challenge that stares the Axis in the face. Axis production has already been reduced to a fraction of America. There remains to carry the

victory through on the battlefield, because apparently the enemy is not going to accept defeat until it is actually delivered on the hoof.

In addition to growing production, other circumstances tend to the swift change of balance that is taking place in the air. The superiority of the Americans are showing the same natural skill in the air that RAF fliers have shown. That natural aptitude plus the most modern training enables us to pass the Axis in man-for-man skill in the air. German and Japanese production may be far less than we had supposed, or possibly curtailed by production difficulties. Some think that in Germany fuel shortage is hampering operations. It can put into bombing of the Rumanian oil fields would pinch the Nazis in a very soft spot right now.

Anyway, we have come a long way from the Battle of Britain in the Summer of 1940 when every Allied plane had to be hoisted, held back for the climax of the German attack on England. Now we want to pull the Axis planes into action. Attrition will defeat Germany and Japan. It cannot defeat us. If we contribute to the swift change of balance, we will pull the Axis planes into action. Attrition will defeat Germany and the Axis, we win. But it is being done without paying any such cost. And if you contrast the cost of Commando raids as against the bomber losses on these attacks against Nazi submarine bases, the airplane is the least costly in lives.

Those who want to get this war over with as soon as possible will pray that the Allied High Command will put ever plans into effect to put into Europe. Let the sidetracks ride on subsistence rations temporarily while the main show is finished off. That is the way to win the war, not only in Europe, but everywhere.

Visitin' Around

Those Threesome Statisticks (Atkins Item, North Wilkesboro Newsworld)
Rev. Ben Church is having a very good attendance at the meetings that he is holding in various places.
What's Hembly Bridge Got That Charlotte Ain't? (Hembly Bridge Item, Monroe Journal)
Mr. Ben Stigall came home from his work the other night and staid over and breakfasted and broke his arm, but he is getting along well with it.
Mebbe McKibbin Was Best of Pushed Along (By That Michigan Bob, Wind (Charlotte News))
The four independent candidates, two Democratic and two Republican, for the office of superior court judge candidates—Kely winning by a better than 8 to 1 margin and McKibbin by better than 3 to 0.

Side Glances



Aw, don't worry about not having coffee, Dad—you've always said drinking milk would make you big and strong!

What's This?

Guessing Game

By Samuel Crafton

MOST of the arguments over the size of the Army are irrelevant, incompetent and immaterial. It is all like a gigantic guessing game, as if there were one "right" size.

And it is too cozy an argument, remote and withdrawn from reality. What army are they talking about, all of them, from Mr. William Green to Mr. Herbert Hoover? Why, they are talking about the new peacetime Army—the Army of 1944. Mr. Green's Summer can hardly be used until next. It is a sign of the unreality of this debate that it should mentally skip a whole year of war to begin with.

It is not the size of the Army next year, but the use of the Army this year, which will determine the whole future, including the size of the Army next year.

If we go into Europe this year, as the Casablanca conference foretold, and if our invasion stizza, the problem of military aid, divides to easy manageability. If we delay a year, and if a Russian disaster intervenes, the problem will mushroom up to unforceable dimensions.

Mr. Hoover thinks we ought to take a large number of men out of the Army this Summer, to grow more food. There is no suggestion in his statements that this might block the invasion of Europe, might give Hitler the operating edge he needs, might complicate our problem so that we might need twice the Army we have next year. Mr. Hoover has the most uncanny way of leaving the war out of his discussions of the war out of the war out of the war.

Mr. William Green's approach to the war turns out to be almost equally tidy.

He thinks we have to leave a certain number of men in war industry, put a certain number in the Army to do the fighting, and keep a certain number working on civilian goods he needs, or "civilization," whatever that means. He is for a perfect "balance." If a perfect "balance" calls for a smaller Army, then he is for a smaller Army. The problem is balance. I would have thought the problem was victory.

How can a man sit in a room and think up these things? How can any one stare to make up a war out of his own head, an unending, handy, convenient, little war, that never listens to the clamor of the real war, whose bloody, sweaty disorder and strategic demands of the moment will wash for no men's blueprint?

In neither Mr. Hoover's view nor Mr. Green's, as publicly expressed, is there any sense of the chances of war, of the possible tragedy of missed opportunity, of the urgency of the moment. It is all schematic, formal, a business, in which we can set the timetable and do pretty much as we like.

If it turns out that a smaller Army would be easier to manage, well, well, that's interesting, and let's have the smaller Army. There is no real war, says he, with its own impatient logic, and it does not care what any man says.

There is too little feeling that the final decision as to the size of next year's Army will be made by what our Army does this year. If we Army enters into a stalemate with Russia, this year, then we may avoid the need for a greatly larger Army. If it does not, we cannot avoid that need. That is what the real war says to us, with its own impatient logic, and it does not care what any man says.

You cannot talk about the size of the Army without talking about the invasion of Europe. One who tries it, will find himself talking about the worshiping his secret dreams, without relevancy to the world or the war.

A Shabby Trick

Richmond County Journal

THE North Carolina Legislature has done much in its present session to which it can point with pride. It has carried out the will of the people, we believe, in providing more money for the institutions which care for the State's sick and unfortunate. It deserves praise for providing a nine-month school term, which we believe is better. And it acted with wisdom in its disposition of the so-called Wine Control Bill, which appears to have been no less than an attempt on the part of the legislature to impose upon the people a forced potation which would be a strong competitor of bootleg booze.

But when the General Assembly disfranchised the citizens of Graham County en masse by reducing the term of duty elected officers or commissioners from four years to two, it made an unbecomingly display of partisanship for which it should be required to repent in sackcloth and ashes. How a man can continue to sleep with a clear conscience after voting two years for the man who had been duly elected by the citizens of Graham County, simply because they happened to be Republicans, is difficult to understand. Seems like the thought of such ruthless and distasteful procedure would make him want to kick himself out of bed.

If Graham County wants Republican commissioners it is entitled to them. If it wants commissioners of the Socialist, Communist, Methodist or Mormon persuasion it has a right to elect them and keep them in office. Suppose the Republicans came to power in the State and reduced the term of office of Democratic justices of the Superior Court to two years, what would we say?

To be sure the courts are likely to nullify the law which seeks to deprive elected officials of their right to hold office, but that in no wise will atone for the sorry act of our lawmakers at Raleigh. It was a shabby trick.

Platform Of The People

Editors, The News:
On Sunday night, Feb. 28, of the W. R. Minney Co. at 3200 N. Caldwell St. was entered and \$1,500 in currency and checks was stolen. The members of the Charlotte Police Department did a splendid job in apprehending the perpetrators of the crime and recovering a large part of the stolen money. Among the members of the sobriety and investigation was the part played by the residents of North Carolina. Eight or ten different citizens of the community offered important clues and assistance in solving the burglary. The whole community took an active interest in seeing that justice was done. Mr. W. R. Minney and I want to express our appreciation for the whitehearted spirit of cooperation shown by the citizens of North Carolina.

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