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### Rising Costs

The sobering turn of events in Europe will not be long in making itself felt throughout American industry. Deaths, disabilities and an incredible rate of consumption of supplies and munitions in Europe are flashing back to us in a grim kind of arithmetic. During November the Western Front alone cost the Army \$7,774,000, with the cost of maintaining 80,000 men from the air and service forces to the infantry—and the German drive of this month heightens the crisis.

It is almost certain that the Army will not be satisfied with the "extra" 20,000 men per month Selective Service has been talking about. While the demand for munitions has been increasing, and attracting public interest, the manpower pinch has been rapidly developing in the European theater. At home, the Army is turning back men in ever-increasing numbers to critical industries. They are turning back into the steel mills, the aircraft plants, the rubber plants, the tire plants and cotton mills. Early this month 4,700 specialists in industry had already been released to just 180 plants and shops.

Expansion of plants throughout the country and upward revision of quotas far in the case of two Charlotte war plants has not been completed. There is a shortage of military trucks—about a million a month; stockpiles of metals now being rapidly eaten away.

And whereas we so recently engaged in curtailing production and talking optimistically of increasing the output of civilian goods, saving only 40 per cent for the war against Japan, the stocks of civilian supplies are dark. Retail prices are approaching an all-time low; the military crisis in textiles will be felt in wool and cotton goods; the cigarette shortage is becoming more acute; fuel oil is shorter; coal is in critical demand; publishers may find their paper allotments cut again next year.

It is not an encouraging picture, but its meaning should be plain to all Americans, and their efforts toward victory should be more determined than ever.

### France Recovers

Let there be no dark mutterings in the West, now that General deGaulle and Marshal Stalin have signed a long-term pact of agreement between France and Russia. This, at least, is no division of spoils, no extension of spheres of influence. It is only a guarantee of Germany's closest powerful neighbors that the perennial aggressors shall be held in check. There is no cause for British or American alarm, and the development is only a challenge to those two powers to enter the same field, to implement our war aims and take some definite steps toward creation of peace.

Despite the fact that France is moving toward a state of socialism, there is every reason to believe that she will speak for herself, and that Moscow's influence will not dominate her affairs. Indeed, according to Leland Stowe, deGaulle shrewdly taught himself out of an uncomfortable position, by forsaking red in Moscow.

France wants to make a firm peace with Germany, to surround her with great powers, and to pull her teeth. But she balks at the suggestion that she take the dangled prize of the Ruhr valley; she considers that she will be safer in the future if that industrial basin is held jointly with the British—and perhaps with other nations.

France emerges from the making of her first treaty as a new nation of increased stature. She, so recently at the mercy of Hitler's Germany, has become the first of Western nations to greet the new day. Already, she offers her allies and saviors bold leadership.

### The Gates Open

The notorious George Browne, former president of the International Alliance of Theatrical State Employees (AFL), and Willie Bluff, his personal representative and handy man, are out of Federal prison after serving three years of their ten- and eight-year stretches. They were convicted of extortion on a grand scale, their shakedown running beyond a million.

It was a pretty heinous offense, involving not only the blackmailing of movie magnates in return for keeping labor peace within the industry but a sell-out of union principles and union members, the only way for releasing them short of their full prison terms is that they did, at the trial, turn state's witnesses, thereby helping to convict other partners in the conspiracy. But nothing was added as any stage in

the proceedings to show that Browne and Bluff weren't a couple of the sort of customers, traitors and betrayers to their fellow unioners and the whole labor movement.

Nevertheless, it is not beyond possibility that the union of Browne and Bluff, making profits for this pair of precious rascals. One of the weaknesses of organized labor is a disposition to indulge itself in synthetic martyrdom, crying persecution in defense of simple wrong-making profits. It is not beyond forgiveness once before by his union when, after using every trick in the legal trade, he went to jail in 1940 to complete a sentence imposed on him in 1927 for the fine old art of pandering. Willie, in plain words, had been a pimp, but his union was quick and unanimous in reaffirming its "belief in the honesty and integrity of Brother William Bluff" who was simply the victim of "unscrupulous interests determined to wreck our international."

With this latest felony to his and Brother Browne's credit, it may not be so easy to charge off their misadventures to any other unscrupulous party but they are. For in the union to take them back would be an insult of the first order to all honest union men, but that persecution complex is strong, and George and Willie, like all fine-line cranks, are persuasive. We're placing no bets either way.

### Oh Whither?

We are upon a time of deep meditation and earnest probing into the philosophy and ideology of Franklin Roosevelt. There is scarcely a day but that some observer comes forth with a study indicating that he is moving rapidly to the right—or veering to the left.

No later than last week a commentator showed that Mr. Roosevelt was edging "left" of center by citing the fact that he had just appointed a handful of conservative men of business to the State Department. Others have been busy indicating the danger of his course, because he could appoint a pack like Archibald MacLellan to the State Department—or because he could name a conservative like Will Clayton. Mr. MacLellan has been opposed because he favored the Loyalists in the Spanish War; James Dunn because he favored the France regime. Of these signs, the crannies have attempted to weave a pattern.

So far as we can make out, the pattern just isn't there. We could show that Mr. Roosevelt is becoming more conservative by a number of signs: the abandonment of Henry Wallace, the split of co-operation with Congress (as in the signing of the Social Security law), the naming of the State Department conservatives, his selection of Wall Street to lead the Government as high officials in Navy and War Departments. But we wouldn't have our hearts in it.

We could also demonstrate that he has been moving toward the left, simply by reviewing his statements that we must broaden the social security program, that government must guarantee sixty million jobs after the war. We could add that his support of recent Labor Board policies, and the FEPC, indicates a drift in the same direction.

What we prefer to believe is that Mr. Roosevelt is doing his best to weld together all the powerful forces in the nation to finish the task of winning the war, and to ease the shock to come in the period of transition. To attempt to show that he is pushing in one direction or another is to begin with the theory that he has been a pretty extreme left-winger throughout his career, and history doesn't support that theory.

Remember that, when he ascended to power in '33, all elements in the country were calling for radical changes in our scheme of things. As early as '34 the period of extreme individualism and chaos that had been the result of the depression was being recognized as the controlling factor. That was a sign that Mr. Roosevelt did not stir a movement—a revolution, if you will—all alone. He has been, from the first, a spokesman.

Accept that, and one may trace his career from the start and find nothing more than a general movement in one direction, neither extreme right nor extreme left. The simple answer to the mystery must be that the President still endeavors to lead the nation where, within certain progressive limits, he deems that it wants to go.

### Statesmen At Work

(Serious, facetious, and comic excerpts from the Congressional Record.)

SENATOR CHANDLER of Kentucky, on peace and war:  
The next time I have a political campaign, if someone will come to my State and put me in prison or take away my property, I will win; but when Greece, opposed by a British fleet, was attacking the American garrisons with American insignia are killed, that does not stem from the Atlantic Charter, and it causes us to face all over the world; yet that is being done without protest, or, at least, without a strong protest.  
I want the Senate to remember what happened in the last war. Wilson had a grand idea of world peace, and he took American prestige with him and went over-

# The Merry-Go-Round

By Drew Pearson

WASHINGTON  
CLOSE students of GOP political history point out that past century does not bode well for Gov. Tom Dewey's future in politics. "If Dewey wants to carry on, he'll have to crack a jim which has hit every defeated Republican Presidential candidate since Benjamin Harrison lost to Cleveland in 1888."

Since then, no Republican ever defeated for the Presidency has held an elective post afterward. Taft held no elective office after his defeat in 1908. Hughes was not elected to anything after his downfall in 1916. Hoover was never elected to anything after his defeat in 1920. Landon was not won the voters' ballots for public office since he opposed Roosevelt in 1936. Wendell Willkie failed for public office after being defeated by FDR in 1940. Now historians will be watching to see whether Tom Dewey can crack the trend.

The Democratic Party, on the other hand, has no long tradition against renominating previously defeated candidates for the Presidency, and has eventually won with a few of them.

Henry Clay once said, "I would rather be right than be President." Clay tried three times for the highest post in the land, being defeated in 1824, 1832, and 1844.

William Jennings Bryan, who knew everything about politics except how to win elections, was listed as Democratic candidate in 1896, 1900 and 1908.

In 1888, Grover Cleveland was renominated by the Democrats for re-election and was defeated, but in 1892, the Democrats again nominated him and he was victorious.

Note: Thomas Jefferson also was defeated for the Presidency in 1800, then won in the hotly contested election of 1800 which was thrown into the House.

Wing-collared, old-fashioned Representative Howard Smith of Virginia got into a tough tongue-lashing contest with sarcastic Representative Mike Bradley of Pennsylvania when they debated on the rate of Congressional clerk hire. Smith had proposed an amendment permitting any employer to pay a worker up to 75 cents an hour less than the Government.

Bradley was immediately skeptical of the laboring Smith's motives.

"I do not question the sincerity of the gentleman from Virginia," Bradley said. "Under the rules of the House I could not do that. . . . I think we have the right

## "Boy, Oh, Boy! What A Bulge I'm Gonna Make!"



## Almost A Ghost

By Marquis Childs

WASHINGTON  
MOST of us who crowded into President Roosevelt's office for last Tuesday's press conference were, I think, heartily gratified by his performance. Maybe that is what is intended.

As the voice went on, in a random, chaotic fashion, it was before long that the Atlantic Charter was dissolving into a mist. True, it had been pretty wraith-like. It had so little corporate substance that you could walk through it in a dark alley if you mustered up some courage sufficiently.

But under the President's soothing words, it came to disappear entirely. It was like the little boy in the Indiana riddle trick. It disappeared up there into the clouds without any fuss or fanfare whatsoever.

The performance reminded me of that mellow veteran of the political wars, Homer S. Cummings, who, as Attorney General, never got into any hot water such as has lately deluged the Department of Justice. Whenever an embarrassing question was put to him, Homer would hush back in his chair, bask his pinchez on his nose, cackle benignly and say:

"Well, now, that's just like Mahomet's coffin; it's hovering in mid-air, neither here nor there."

Was that what the President wanted us to understand? That the Atlantic Charter had slipped into a grey limbo in which no one would remember very well whether it was signed or unsigned? I certainly don't know.

Editors, The News:  
Nationalistic frictions among nations are polluting the world. Effort now as they have often multiplied efforts for peace in the past. If there were an attending the numerous conference who profess of peace on earth and who don't stave to the representatives of the other nations in securing advantages, I am sure that we would have the political war at home and the political war in the world. The best fighting job is getting down and out get after World War II.

Of the approximately fifty million men and women fighting throughout the world today, there are a few who are not fighting. It is absolutely necessary or inevitable that every man, woman, sick and tired, war and he would gladly drop his arms and put the amply carnage if it were now possible.

What uses a man on this bloody road? It is his hope or

to apprehensive when the gentleman from Virginia introduces an amendment of this kind, when we recall that the gentleman from Pennsylvania has introduced numerous amendments to emasculate that act and his right opposition to everything in the act of the wage earner. . . . I know where he stands.

"Should someone introduce a bill to provide milk bottles for the use of the children in the country, I can anticipate that the gentleman from Virginia will propose an amendment designed in some way to get at the milk. The gentleman from Alaska, I would expect that the gentleman from Virginia might show up with something designed to take a crack at the Peanners' Union."

Gen Tom Pennsylvania  
Smith and back at Bradley by calling him the "bleeding-hearted gentleman from Pennsylvania," whose year bleed when any measure comes up here affecting the highly organized workmen who can protect themselves and who can protect him in his seat in Congress.

"Oh, the gentleman's heart bleeds copiously for me!" opined the Virginia Congressman.  
"But when you bring up the poor little devil who has no organization to support him, who is depending just as a citizen upon the big heart of his Representative in Congress to take care of him and provide him with the heart of the gentleman from Pennsylvania bleed for that unprotected, helpless citizen who has no great organization back of him with the great finances of the CIO-PAT? Oh, no. That bleeding heart dries up when that poor little fellow comes here."

Bradley replied that the great beneficiaries of the Wage and Hour Law, opposed by Smith, were the unorganized workers who had no way of winning their own concessions from employers. He accused Smith of knowing beforehand that the amendment he offered would be ruled out by a point of order (as it was) and charged Smith with "strangling more progressive legislation in the interest of the unorganized workers of the country than any other member of this body."

"I will say that when that organ of mine does bleed," continued Bradley, referring to his bleeding heart, "the substance that comes out will be blood, whereas with respect to some others whose names I will not mention a great many people are of the opinion that the fluid which exudes from their hearts is very chilly indeed."  
"There are some people," concluded the Pennsylvania Congressman staring at Smith, "who when they speak of left-and right, they will not mention any names, but I will give you one guess to whom I am referring—whose hearts get as big as ice wagons and just as cold."



"We're a little bit under age, but my sister and I thought we could get a pint of blood between the two of us!"

## Everyday Counselor

By Herbert Spough, D.D.

WHY do so many religious people look unhappy? I was asked the other day. There is a question here, a challenge, in that interrogation. I'll have to admit that many people in church do look unhappy. I often think they are. But the people you meet at home, in the street also look unhappy.

The difference is a story. I once read of a little boy who was injured by an automobile in a street accident. Christmas time when the streets were crowded, instead of spending his Christmas with his family in the hospital. Shortly after his return from the operating room as his mother was looking at the bandage, he looked at her steadily and said, "Didn't you know about Jesus being born on Christmas?"

Isn't that enough to make someone smile? And how contagious and helpful that smile can be. It's a lovely sermon which anyone can preach.

A dear reader and a dear friend, when you see the Annual Cleveland Crier, to pass on to you, and this is a good place to do it.

"I was trading down a long, long street—and dreary. With a pack of care upon my back, and feel-so weary. I had a sudden flash of a friendly smile."

It made that road shrink up to half a mile. I started and straightened—it had come so quick.

The change had been sunny and so quick! The sun jumped upward, whistling all the while—What sense of comradeship in that smile?"

## Truth & Consequences

By Dorothy Thompson

NEW YORK  
WHAT EVER we are going to do, or permit to be done, in the realm of naked power politics, let us at least tell the truth. Let us have done with covering up statements with noble words.

The question of the Curson line has been decided in favor of the Soviet Union. For Poland's territorial integrity, in the opinion of the House of Commons on Wednesday, Prime Minister Churchill plainly intimated that there was no agreement on that issue, which must mean America is withholding approval of the terms to which Churchill had earlier given his blessing.

The one-way British is apparently just as puzzled about all this as the ordinary American. A dispatch to the Baltimore Sun reports that Britons have been left completely bewildered by Secretary of State Stettin's explanation of our policy toward Poland, and certainly the President must have added to that puzzlement.

"Only the present German offensive," the Sun dispatch says, "prevents the whole question from boiling up into a first-class political crisis. Anti-Soviet prejudice does not lie behind the trouble." The view of the speaker here for the Polish viewpoint rests on two principal reasons.

"The first is that Britain went into the war to save Poland. The second is that Britons have been impressed throughout the war by the valor of Polish pilots and soldiers."

Those of us who write about these things often make the mistake. It seems to me of saying, "The British think so-and-so." or "The American position is thus-and-so," when, of course, we mean a few people in a Government or a political party, or perhaps, the viewpoint of a single powerful individual. The proper evidence we have indicates that Britons are more aroused by Churchill's recent policy than Americans.

"Russia is determined not to be the victim of another aggression—the third in this century—and members of the French Government should agree on this point."  
Stalin said he just could not afford to have a Poland friendly to Germany or hostile to Russia. He could not afford to have Poland refuse passage through its territory to Russian troops, as happened in 1939. Therefore, the question of the future Government of Poland is of utmost importance to the Soviet Union.

It is the repetition of the adjective "strong and independent" which I vigorously object to. The whole proposition, but in particular I object to lying about the Curson line.  
A Poland whose future Government must be "friendly" to Russia, and whose future definition of what "friendliness" is a Poland which must remain hostile to Germany, is a biological contradiction. It is a biological contradiction of the type of Germany emerges, and for all eternity; and a Poland which must be friendly to Russia, and whose future Government must be "friendly" to Germany, is not strong, but helpless, and not independent, but servile.