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The Southern Grip

The South is the doorman of the Republic... it is not so easy from the President and Vice President we have been accustomed to hear that Dixie is but a colony of the East and Midwest.

We march at the tail end of the American parade, bearing the greatest afflictions from illiteracy to venereal disease.

And today, though the South battles her problems, she has learned to accept trustfully a certain measure of Federal aid, yet we wait too long and too often. We waited at Chicago, when our leaders beheld a Brutus in Sidney Hillman, and we were betrayed. We prevailed over Henry Wallace, to be sure, but we lost with Jimmy Byrnes. We recoiled, when Labor's vote shouted that no Southern might bear its blessing.

The South, so Southerners said, was losing its historic role as a dominant section in the affairs of government. A stranger might have assumed that one-quarter of the nation's people were henceforth to be without representation in Washington. But what is the score? Who controls the Congress? And who stands in the high places?

The House has 47 standing committees, 30 of them classed as major committees. Of these the South holds seventeen chairmanships, the East six, the Middle West none (there are only three Middle Western Democrats in the Senate).

It is not surprising, perhaps, that the South heads more than half the powerful committees of Congress, for our members are returned in order of seniority—most of them for long and unbroken terms. Under our scheme they roll up seniority and advance to places of power. We are not always served well, but we do have a little power that the South holds in Washington. Our position of influence in Congress has been unchallenged for many years.

In this situation, could it be that our painful and pressing problems remain unsolved because we are too slow to solve them—or that we do not know how to wield our power? Could it be that we have frittered away our birthright, with our eyes on the porkbarrel, rather than the shortcomings of our regional society?

The High Sheriff

The High Sheriff in North Carolina is a constitutional officer. Article Something-or-Other stipulates that each county shall elect a sheriff, and seems to imply that everybody should know what the duties of a sheriff shall be. At any rate, it does not define those duties.

In times past the duties of the sheriff have been manifold. He has been—and in the less populous counties is still—the chief law enforcement officer. He is charged with the service of civil process, including summonses and writs of execution. He is an attendant of the State court. One of his traditional functions has been to collect taxes.

Progress and growth and governmental efficiency have bugged the 100 sheriffs in North Carolina and in many an instance relieved them of most or some of their duties. Tax-collecting, in many a county, became too big and too exacting a business to be left to the sheriffs, who on the average were untrained in accounting and management. The more populous counties have installed police departments, some of them up-to-date, which by so much superseded the law-enforcement duties of the sheriff, and his duties as sheriff still remain, however, the duties of serving papers and things, overseeing the county jail, seeing that big court is opened with a proper flourish and in general

Dimes Aren't Enough

The March of Dimes, the particularly catchy and appealing name borne by the infantile paralysis campaign, won't do. We've got to suggest that the National Foundation abandon its title. But Dimes aren't enough. It's a matter of simple arithmetic. Volunteers could solicit, and the country could dime itself to death, and the need would not be met. We'll have to send bigger coins out to do this vital work.

Take Mecklenburg, for example. The campaign opened here Saturday, with an announced goal of \$25,750—and that's an enormous lot. But if the community got the idea that a dime's contribution from everyone would fill the bill, we'd never meet the quota.

According to the latest figure at hand there are 151,926 souls in the county. And if every citizen, down to the last chick and child, chipped in a dime, the campaign would get exactly \$15,192.60. That would leave us, you see, more than \$10,000 short.

And that should be sufficient to show that this may be more than a March of Dimes. There'll have to be a good many dollars contributed, even if most citizens do pitch in and help. The dimes will help, of course. But they can't do it alone.

Distinguished Service

The Edward L. Bernays Award for outstanding achievement in Negro-white relations, presented to Chapel Hill's Dr. Howard Odum by the Federal Council of Churches, is a means of paying tribute to one of the most valuable Southerners alive. The award is given to itself, of course, for it was bestowed upon Dr. Odum after he was chosen from a list of 55 Americans who have made distinguished contributions in the field of race relations.

Even more important, we'd say, than the award (and it is part of a growing movement to stimulate and vitalize democracy at home) is the man himself. Dr. Odum has been a leader in enlightened race relations, and his kind of leadership is not typically that of leading Southern figures, to be sure. But he is of the South and of the soil (he still finds time to farm and garden extensively) and has held the region close to his heart through his long career. As an author, he dates back to 1909, when he began the series of books and articles which culminated in that monumental socio-economic study, Southern Rebirth, regarded as the definitive work in its field.

But with the publication of that volume in 1938 his work was not done. As recently as 1943 he addressed himself anew to the Negro problem, in Race and Rumors of Race, a thoughtful and complete study of this vexing dilemma faced by Americans. Nor is that his only recent contribution here. Scratch an interracial panel, or a body working toward good-will between races, and you'll find Howard Odum.

Several inches are now to be taken off towels, by order of that character in the WPB whom, for convenience, we think of as Shorty.

WASHINGTON Democratic May and Thomason reported the pressure against the bill from labor and farm groups has been terrific. They are convinced there is strong sentiment in the caucus against a service act. As a result, they will not believe this pressure has been felt as strongly yet as the pressure from groups in opposition.

For this reason they hope Gen. Marshall will testify before the Military Affairs Committee. If he reports on the casualties sustained in Europe during the last month, and the hundreds of thousands of cases of illness among soldiers—including pneumonia, flu, trench fever, malaria and other ailments of minor wounds, then they believe opposition will be difficult.

In the Senate, Chairman Thomas admitted there is no certainty of speedy action. The bill will be given a clear track in the Senate once it gets by the House, but strong opposition from Senate isolationists and even some liberals is anticipated.

F. R.'s Insurance

Vice-President Truman is living proof of the fact that miracles never cease. Harry, himself, will be the first to admit it. Never in all the years since, as they say in Missouri, "he was born between the plow handles of a Jackson County farm," did Harry Truman ever expect to rise to the second highest office in the land.

Ten years ago when Truman entered the Senate, his fellow freshmen included such spectacular names as Schweikert of Washington, Minion of Indiana and Burke of Nebraska. Today the first two have retired to the obscurity of the Federal bench, while Burke is a lobbyist for the coal operators. No one ever heard of Truman ten years ago. No one knew of his three colleagues now.

Second Coolidge?

In more ways than one, Harry Truman is like Calvin Coolidge. He comes from the same backwoods origin. He seldom makes speeches on the Senate floor. He is bluffly, remembers the days when the druggist sold him \$3 a week.

But more than anything else Truman has the same brand of Coolidge political neck. The lightning bolt that first struck the Boston police strike, later when the party bosses in the smoke-filled room at the Blackstone Hotel handed a goop compromise Vice-President to go with Harding.

The lightning struck Truman when his investigating committee hurled him to fame. Later when the Democratic bosses, sitting at the White House decided that he was the compromise candidate to replace Henry Wallace. That is the man who today assumes the life insurance duties of Vice-President of the United States. He will be worth watching.

Labor Opposition

Representative May, Thomason, and Ham Andrews of New York, ranking Republican on the House Military Affairs Committee, all advised the President that the amended bill could be passed in the House, but admitted it would pass only by the narrowest of margins. Andrews, who will support the bill, said he cannot count on more than four votes among the eleven Republican members of the Military Affairs Committee. He added the proposition will be no better, if it goes among Republicans generally when the full House votes on the bill.

All Set



Freedom: To Work & Fight

By Samuel Grafton

THE national service issue is a crisis of confidence. It is the kind of issue on which a government could fall in Britain. If Congress refuses to pass a national service act, or a reasonably accurate facsimile, it will thereby announce that it does not trust the Administration's power to distribute our labor resources where needed to fight the war.

Under our constitutional system, an amendment or an act which would continue unhappily, or which would go on fighting a war after it has been denied the administrative tools it says it needs.

In a country conducted according to a parliamentary system, a legislative majority which voted against a national service act would then have to form a new government, and take over the management of the war, and try to prove in practice that the war could be won without this legislation. Under our more rigid form, Congress can give in to organized pressures, deny the Administration's demands, and then look the other way while the war goes on. In effect, it is allowed to hit and run.

The issue is confidence. The issue is not coercion of labor. It is simply not an issue that a man can evade by twist away from his shoulders. It means that the Administration can be trusted to do, wisely and fairly, what it is alternately proposed shall be done by a grotesque means: Government seizure and management of labor.

Demagogue May and Thomason reported the pressure against the bill from labor and farm groups has been terrific. They are convinced there is strong sentiment in the caucus against a service act. As a result, they will not believe this pressure has been felt as strongly yet as the pressure from groups in opposition.

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Drop one on the daps for me, Dad—they're the reason Mom won't buy me long pants, because she says it's patriotic to save cloth!

Foxhole Fun

By Hal Boyle

WITH THE AMERICAN FIRST "The artillery has a better system. They must play poker all the time and the man who loses goes to the gun and pulls the lanyard."

Hearing some men digging in on the other side of the hedge where he was carving a foxhole, S/Sgt. Russell E. Jones, Rumont, Tex., called out innocently: "Is it as tough digging over there as it is here?"

When the platoon sergeant told that other company sergeant told him the other company had moved up yet, both soldiers became curious and circled around cautiously and saw three or four just about dug in for the night. They took three prisoners.

Two red-faced doughboys are here on the other side of the hedge whose seven-pound baby they helped to deliver—but they're taking a little time to get their 84th Infantry Division buddies.

Hearing a woman's voice calling for investors, I believe the citizens of Charlotte behind it. I am sure that the woman is a far from the lines and discovered an expectant mother in immediate need of a doctor.

They found a doctor in a nearby town and he asked them to return and help him. At exactly 11 P. M., a thin wall broke out in the farmhouse shaken by artillery fire. A new life had been born. The mother and child were safe. The doughboys went back to soldiering.

"I will take my foxhole anytime," said I, and I leave this job to the doctors."

People's Platform

Editors: The News:

What lies behind the amazing success of the German home front? Surely all Germans now recognize the certainty of defeat. The long retreat toward their cities cannot be concealed. Except for a few fanatics who glory in a suicidal last-ditch defense, the millions of war workers are said to be impelled by only two factors—the Gestapo and the horrors anticipated from surrender.

The Gestapo can scarcely be the chief factor. Their numbers must be severely limited by the shortage of reserves. Given the will to revolt, it is inconceivable that the millions of workmen could not overthrow them.

Fear of surrender must largely be the answer, based on incessant warnings of "totalitarianism" and "slavement". True, BBC and ASBE refute this propaganda. Germany's industry has announced the treatment to be accorded the part of Germany conquered from the Allies.

But are such refutations and announcements enough? Could anything possibly be adequate except the unequivocal joint declaration straight from the Big Three? Stern as the future intended for Germany, it should appear only alluring by contrast with the vague hopes of the masses with "unconditional surrender". Three hold the fate of millions. Should they have any doubts, I read these delicately might safely shorten the war and save lives?

Vineyard, N. J. ROBERT S. FIELD

Put Everybody In On Everybody

Editors: The News: Some high-minded Congressmen would the President to take Secretary of State Stettin to the meeting of the Big Three. By the same measure that means Mr. Churchill should take Anthony Eden along his secretary, Mr. Stettin should take his Mr. Molotov.

Elsewhere in the world some belatedly trying to have DeGaulle and his secretary. I read these articles on public subsidy and private enterprise in housing.

I love Charlotte! the climate is splendid. You have much to offer in many ways, but I think I'll stay. I should call the middle class and the means by which we can live in one of your lovely sections, and if not—the alms. If there would be in-between, one has no choice.

I think the landlords and citizens have much to offer. I prefer adequate housing under private enterprise, because if private enterprise does not take interest