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By Drew Pearson

Invitation To Inflation

The great outcry against President Truman's belated request for legislation fixing price ceilings on old and new houses is, of course, simply an extension of the debate that has been raging over price ceilings in general. It is perfectly logical and understandable for the real estate and building organizations to protest such action, for it will, if passed, cost them a fair measure of their potential profit.

Their lobbies in Washington have a God-given right to beseege the Congress, and indeed, they were not to be discharged their duty to the businessmen they represent if they didn't. But, as usual, the matter of profit is conspicuously absent from their public statements and they would have us all believe that the President, in his ignorance, is about to undermine the foundations of free enterprise as well as delay the construction of badly-needed housing.

Frank W. Cortwright, a spokesman for the National Association of Home Builders called the scheme "unrealistic and unworkable and a stumbling block to solving the housing problem," a sentiment in which most of the Charlotte builders and realtors concur. But then Mr. Cortwright went on to make one of the most unrealistic pronouncements on the subject we have yet heard: "I don't think people will be foolish enough to pay ridiculous prices for houses. And that means builders won't be able to charge them."

The prices being charged in Charlotte for houses are already ridiculous, by any definition. For months now it has been impossible to borrow much more than 50 per cent of the selling price on a dwelling, which means that the most optimistic realtor can't appraise a house at more than 70 per cent of the price he's asking for it. And the realtors

WASHINGTON
On July 10, 1938, this column went on to its subscribing newspapers a sensational disclosure that "the Douglas Aircraft Co. has recently sold its latest flying fortress, the DC-4, to Japan, together with certain blueprints whereby Japan can duplicate the plane carrying four motors, this is one of the finest bombers ever constructed."

The column also pointed out that this sale was being made despite Secretary of State Hull's appeal to American airplane manufacturers to cease selling planes to Japan.

Ultra Secrecy Wanted
This writer now has before him the original bill of sale, the checkbook from Tokyo, New York and Los Angeles, and other correspondence regarding the sale of the DC-4 by Douglas to Japan—despite Donald Douglas' earlier emphatic denial.

The deal was handled largely by V. E. Bertrandis, then vice-president of Douglas, later by a major general in the U. S. Army. It was obvious, not only from Donald Douglas' denial, but from other precautions that neither the Japs nor Douglas wanted this sale to be publicized in the American press.

Most tell-tale evidence of how anxious the Japs and Douglas were to camouflage the sale is illustrated by a letter addressed to Douglas Vice-President Bertrandis from S. Akabane, New York representative of NAKAJIMA aircraft works in Mizui, 1938, just after the deal. The letter was dated Aug. 16, 1938, just after the Douglas plane, following one year of absolute secrecy, finally decided that with the obtaining of an export

license the news had to leak out. Here is the letter showing how pleased the Japs were at the skillful way Douglas handled the news leak:
"Dear Mr. Bertrandis:
"Looking over the Saturday edition of the New York Times, I could not help but write this letter to compliment you for your excellent handling of disclosing the sale. Those 'in the know' will not object to the transaction as they are limited to those in our trade, while laymen probably don't know what the ship is anyway when mentioned singly by your designation as in the paper. And the announcement was made in a so casual and incidental, I doubt that anybody would take sufficient notice and single out your company.
"I have purposely requested you to scrutinize the papers for any possible reaction, but so far nothing has been mentioned of the sale.

Army-Douglas Cooperation
Douglas could not, of course, have sold the DC-4 without permission from the U. S. Army or Navy. Not only was this permission given, but relations between Douglas and the Air Forces were such that Donald Douglas' daughter later married the son of Gen. "Happy" Arnold, Chief of the Air Forces, while the Air Forces promoted V. E. Bertrandis to be a major general.

Japs Get a Bargain
The Japs bought gleefully about this bargain price. A Jap paper of Nov. 14, 1939, carries a picture of the DC-4, under the caption: "Formerly America's biggest, now Japan's."
"Built more than a year ago at a cost of \$4,000,000," the paper continued, "the giant plane was sold to Japan Airways for \$750,000, complete with plans for its assembly."



"Frankly, I prefer someone with no army or navy experience—this firm has only a couple of million to spend!"

Error Compounded

By Dorothy Thompson

CONSPIRACY OF SILENCE
As for "orderly and humane" proceedings on this subject there is a conspiracy of silence in the American press. There is no such conspiracy in the British.

Those who want to know what is really happening in Central Europe should read Bertrand Russell's account in the December 8th issue of the New Leader, New York, and Sir Arthur Salter in the current Contemporary Review. In London, there is a mass of evidence coming from many absolutely reliable sources that the treatment of German and Austrian nationals is as bad as anything meted out to Poles and Czechs by the Nazis. The fact that the international community has so far pronounced themselves "orderly and humane"

Of course, it is the territorial coup that in eastern Germany and in Poland has been made, and the German frontier in the east they retreat to the province of Breslau in the west they stand as the Rhine.

Mr. Byrnes makes this clear when he tells our French demand on the Rhine and Ruhr. The personal deprivation of a quarter of German and a sixth of Austrian eastern industry, together with the depopulation into the Reich of 10-12 million people, make an ample further training and depopulation in the west.

EARLY FAILURES
These failures were created at Tehran, Yalta, and, worst of all, at Potsdam. Mr. Byrnes now promises to consolidate previous errors.

Quote, Unquote
-Harry T. Rowland, first vice president, Glenn L. Martin Company.
One of the things Americans could do to help the Government is to respect for other folks' property. We are a nation of somewhat huddled and at times they have been subjected to wanton destruction.

A Publisher's Panacea

George C. Biggers, vice-president of The Atlanta Journal and immediate past president of the Southern Newspaper Publishers Association last week offered the Southern Governors Conference a complete panacea for all their multifarious troubles. "All the problems confronting the South will be solved when a public school system is installed lifting the average of learning to the eighth grade or better," he said.

of which the South has always had more than its proportionate share, are rooted in ignorance. In this hard world the man who doesn't know doesn't get very far, and in this day and age, when millions of our citizens in the illiterate and semi-literate class, cut off from communication with the world of ideas.

Economic isolation for the South ended many years ago, and every Southerner today competes in a very real fashion with the rest of the nation in New York and another in California. And, of course, a Southerner who is ill-equipped educationally can't expect to come out as well as his competitors in the scramble for the best view of the world of tomorrow.

We have already, we fear, lost our chance to grab our fair share of the industrial expansion sure to follow in the wake of the war, lost it because there weren't enough skilled hands around to tempt outsiders to locate here. But there will be other great readjustments, less painful ones, we hope, and if we can, in fact, solve our problems as Mr. Biggers suggests, we should be ready when the next great day comes.

"Well, Boys, What Do You Want Me To Bring You?"



Brief Enchanted Moment

The big flakes didn't last long, but while they sifted silently over the city, floating earthward in gentle, swirling patterns, they brought a fragile moment of enchantment.

Sleet, replacing the swirling white trace of the snow with gray diagonals, ended the illusion. Upflung sprang into sharp focus, touching familiar, and unsightly landmarks with pure beauty, smoothing out harsh lines, moulding tortured angles into sweeping curves.

And, briefly, the gentle snow touched the spirit of the town, made it warm, willed to offset the cold outside. There was a strangeness about it, a feeling of high adventure, the fellowship of a shared experience. A great, soft curtain came down, shutting out the scarred and grimed past of the morning, an island in the rushing current of time.

And now the enchantment of the morning is lost forever, dispelled by the red noses, the cold feet, the sore backs, all the intimations of mortality that again, rooted to earth another Winter's first snow brings its fleeting release, touching the soul of man with its ancient, white magic.

The Negro In Kentucky

At first glance, it might be supposed that strident controversy is bound to follow the report of the commission appointed by Governor Letcher to study Negro affairs in Kentucky. Now that the Legislative Council has received its recommendations of changes in laws, customs and attitude which touch on the very condition of the 75 per cent of the State's citizens who are colored. This would be, at least, the conventional assumption, on the idea that taboos have long discouraged in States of the Southern tradition any public discussion of the problem and certainly of proposals to change a status quo.

Dwellers in a democracy. The report is a reminder that discrimination of many kinds yet exists, in spite of progress toward their removal—discrimination in facilities and opportunities, in housing and public recreation and above all in the field of employment.

Dignity of existence, the chance for improvement and enjoyment of the right security and also security against being demeaned as individuals and as a class—these are the goals to which the Kentucky report points, and it is hard to believe anyone may dispute their desirability. If there is any argument, it doubtless will play about the question of how now is practical and possible of accomplishment through legislation. The likelihood that many people will have a question to be largely one as to many ways in which such progress does not seem to us to diminish its value as forward-looking and courageous. In its way, it speaks for a new day and new progressive progressiveness in the area south of the Ohio River.

The President's Recruiting Problem

By Marquis Childs

AS Secretary Byrnes sets out for Moscow, our hopes rise a little. This means another chance to come together on the questions that have created barriers of misunderstanding between London and Washington on one hand and Moscow on the other. It's not an easy task nor a welcome one. No one would choose to live home at the beginning of the holiday season, to fly in cold and storm to a thousand miles to a gloomy, war-torn capital.

Matter of Pay
One reason for the reluctance to take Government jobs is the matter of pay. Many men feel they served their Government apprenticeship during the war and now they want to get back into competition. A Government job of \$10,000 a year looks very small in comparison to some of the salaries being handed out in New York.

Impossible Perfection
We spend so much time berating our public men and clamoring for an impossible perfection that it's not surprising that most people being hurled away from public office. That it happens is one of President Truman's real problems—to get men to do the necessary jobs. It's a awful thing," he told a visitor recently. "This touched off a new upsurge of State Department policy and required a lot of explaining.

Patience Would Help
President Truman is keenly aware of the recruiting problem he faces. He does not, however, know quite what to do about it. He has suggested an upward revision of Government salaries but that in itself will be of little help.

As soon as we all get around to it, we'll get rid of a lot of cracked pots we've collected about the veteran "problem."
--Columbus, O. Citizen.
The whole history of warfare has been built around the development of new weapons. Man-kind has never yet devised an instrument of offense against which there has been no defense.

Quote, Unquote

Let's keep America American until we can show the new socialist dictatorships turns out. Just because they are not German origin won't make them any sweeter in the long run than under Hitler.