

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 7, 1945

Benefits Bring Problems

Announcement that the Veterans' Administration has finally made up its mind to establish a 500-bed hospital here should be the signal for general rejoicing. For this is precisely the type of project from which an expanding city derives the greatest benefit.

The hospital was brought to Mecklenburg by a handful of persistent Charlotteans who were not daunted by a series of major frustrations; there was the time, for instance, when Representative Doughton snatched one away from Charlotte at the last minute and placed it in Salisbury. Delivery was finally made by Representative Irvin, despite his freshman status in Congress, but he has been generous in dividing the credit with Drs. Squires and Sanger and Keeley Grice, the American Legion leader. City and county officials have, of course, backed the project from the beginning.

These public-spirited gentlemen deserve a vote of thanks and we're glad to join the chorus. But, without any desire to drag a skeleton into the celebration, we can't help remarking that the new hospital, like any other major addition to the city, will bring problems as well as benefits. Not new ones, of course, but problems as pressing as they are familiar.

The veterans' hospital will have a large staff, the staff will have large families, and the large families will need places to live. And beyond these permanent additions to the community, a horde of transients—veterans coming in for a check-up, relatives of patients—will be added to the burden of hotels that already have drummers sleeping in their stables.

Of course the money for building the new hospital will not be available

until next July, and another year will probably be consumed in construction. But this is a mere breathing-spell, and at the rate we're going we won't have our own homeless cared for in an another year and a half.

The shortage of housing should be, of course, lessened the determination of those who are seeking to bring other enterprises, public and private, to Charlotte. But it will have a blighting effect on the enthusiasm when we are considering locations here; witness the letters that arrive here with depressing regularity and are duly displayed in the City's Platform, the letters that begin: "So this is Charlotte."

Up to now there has been a tendency to approach each suggested housing plan and examine it to see why it won't work; diligent effort in this field has turned up no end of insurmountable difficulties. We submit that the time for this sort of foolhardy debate has passed; we must seize upon some housing scheme and start thinking of reasons why it will work.

The new hospital will be a great asset, but we should remember that it will, in view of our present congestion, also provide an additional argument against the location of other new enterprises in Charlotte. We cannot miraculously produce great residential suburbs of course, but we can evolve a coherent plan, backed by all the diverse interests of the community, that would stand as evidence that we realize that Charlotte is spitting at the seams and that we're all working together to do something about it. Until we do, an increasing number of us are going to extend regrets when we invite them to our post-war party.

The Bowl Runneth Over

The sports department informs us that Memorial Stadium will probably be full tomorrow afternoon when the North and South Carolina high school all-stars come to grips in their ninth annual Shrine Bowl game. This is a happy thing, particularly so because the Shrine Bowl contest, of all the charity affairs we know, is the most fitting.

Some 50 young Carolinians will play in that game, and the game will need nearly perfect physically as any youngsters from the two states have produced. They will donate the use of their strong backs, straight legs and supple muscles to the service of hundreds of children whose crippled limbs are to be completely satisfied at the Shrine Hospital in Greenville, S. C.

The eight previous games have netted a total of \$37,500, no mean contribution to an institution that performs its miracles on an annual budget of around \$78,000. If the stadium is, in fact, filled

to the brim tomorrow, the proceeds will permit another hundred or so crippled children to join the 7,000 who have emerged whole and sound from the hospital since it opened its doors September 1927.

There will be some, we suppose, who will attend the game tomorrow without realizing that their admission fee has helped purchased a good life for a helpless child. Even so, they will more than get their money's worth, for these Shrine Bowl games have a way of turning into bowl-raisers, providing some of the best high school football of the season. The finest material, plus the finest coaching, plus a resounding inter-state rivalry combine to produce a completely satisfactory Saturday afternoon.

And the nice thing about it is that it really doesn't matter which Carolina wins, for in the end the victory belongs to a bunch of crippled kids who won't even be in the stadium tomorrow.

A Strange Little Proposal

One of the most startling suggestions we have encountered in quite a while occurs in an *American Magazine* article by Matthew J. Merritt, a former Congressman from New York who wants a sweeping overhaul of Congress. "Representative government will survive only if Congress continues to be the chief policy-making branch of the Government," Mr. Merritt writes, and goes on to suggest that its survival can best be guaranteed by raising Congressional pay to \$25,000 and limiting each member to a single six-year term.

Dismissing the fact that Congress was never intended to be the policy-making branch of the Government, although it has on a good many occasions seized that power from the executive, an effort to end Congressmen with immunity as to the will of the people strikes us as a strange approach to the preservation of representative government.

A one-term limit would, of course, mean that a member would never have to answer to his constituency after he arrived in Washington. For six happy

and prosperous years he could dream up any sort of legislation he liked, worry for its passage, and laugh merrily in the face of any voter who arose to object.

He would not be beset by pressure groups as he is now, but neither would he be bound to represent the best interests of the people who elected him. And, it seems to us, that he would, since he would be certain to be turned out in the cold at the end of his term, be inclined to the views of any prospective employer who brought in an axe to grind.

We can only regard Mr. Merritt's proposal as another one of those strange plausible little propositions that spring from the uncertain gentry who, whether they know it or not, don't really believe in democracy. Having paid with a time, and only some 20 years ago, since he would be certain to be turned out in the cold at the end of his term, be inclined to the views of any prospective employer who brought in an axe to grind.

substantial percentage of all the orders received from readers of the New York concern's advertisements. Time was, and only some 20 years ago, when one of the major New York publishers practically never sent review copies of his books to Southern newspapers, since he regarded the Southern book market as utterly negligible. This attitude was not justified, but today it is much less so than 20 years ago. "The Sahara of the Bozart," as hyperbolically described by H. L. Mencken in the early 1920's, never did exist, but there was too much truth in that, for the Southern market for the "Gentlemen With the Meat-Axe." Today he would be the first to admit that his strictures no longer apply. The South's purchases of books are among the numerous evidences that his scathing epithets are now badly outmoded.

That device to lift logs was O. K. for war purposes but hardly suitable at the time. Diaper fog and you deprive the post-war planner of his natural habitat.

Closed down during the lately-concluded fighting to the south, Manchuria is recognized as a Far Eastern branch of the Balkans.

The Merry-Go-Round

By Drew Pearson

THE Republican National Committee isn't overlooking any bets for a sure. Its Senator John Danaher, Connecticut who became GOP Congressional liaison officer after his defeat by Brien McMahon, Republican, outlined Republican plans at a secret meeting of the 70-70 Club last week. This is a group of 70th and 71st Congress Republicans who meet weekly in closed-door sessions.

Danaher made two major points. First, he advised the Congressmen to go out and challenge Federal job-holders and the beneficiaries of New Deal spending programs. Instead of sitting quietly and bemoaning the fact that the people receive funds from the Federal Government.

"The thing to do is to go out there and put them on the spot," Danaher exhorted his Republican listeners. "Ask them, 'are you a thinking man or are you a follower?' Make them squirm. Ask them, 'are you bought or are you a citizen?'"

Danaher's second tip to the Congressmen was that they should stop sounding off about democracy. "We all believe in democracy and the democratic form of government," Danaher said, "but the truth is the Democrats are using the word 'democracy' with the Democratic Party. You'd be amazed to learn how many people think the Democrats stand for democracy and the Republicans for something entirely different."

"Article four of the Constitution says we have a republican form of government, and the more we can stress the 'republican' connection, the better off we are. We are simply playing into the hands of the Democrats when we constantly stress the word 'democracy.' Hereafter let us use our own word—'republican,' with a small 'r.' It's just as good a word, and for our purposes much better."

Another Missourian

If President Truman calls Chester Davis of St. Louis back into the Government as is now rumored, it will be the most astounding rebuff to FDR that Truman has administered thus far. For Chester Davis was about the only man Roosevelt ever got sore at publicly when they broke relations.

Davis was then War Food Administrator, had been rowing with Economic Stabilizer Vinson over the price of farm products and was threatening to resign. Finally Justice Byrnes, Judge Vinson, and several other Roosevelt advisers had a long session with Davis in his hotel. They thought they had him sold on teamwork and cooperation.

But at the end of the conference, Davis, without telling anyone, went out of the hotel, got in his car, drove around to the White House and landed in a curt letter of resignation. Roosevelt then issued one of the most caustic letters of his career.

Congressman "Stalin" Cox

The Rules Committee of the House of Representatives is supposed to be the toughest in Congress—and usually deserves that reputation. But the other day when a group of ladies called on Chairman Adolph Sabath

of Illinois to urge passage of the UNRRA appropriation bill he courteously ushered them into his Rules Committee.

And while such labor-baiters as Howard Smith of Virginia and Eugene Cox of Georgia listened attentively, Dan Riechers, vice-chairman of the Women's Activities Committee for Lusting Peace, argued that we were reneging on our pledged word if Congress did not pass the UNRRA appropriation immediately.

Later, one of the group, Mrs. Edgar Ansel Mower, wife of the well-known news commentator, sought out Congressman Cox in the privacy of his office. Cox is considered one of the toughest and most reactionary members of the Rules Committee, but to Mrs. Mower he was the height of Southern cordiality.

"My dear, come right in at once," said the gentleman from Georgia. "I'm glad to see you."

Cox listened carefully, but told Mrs. Mower that he was suspicious of Russia. The UNRRA relief bill, he feared, was playing right into Russian hands.

"But," said Mrs. Mower, "are we going to let the Russians say that the capitalist nations make a lot of promises and then turn round and don't carry them out?"

Then she tried a new tack.

"You know, Congressman," said Mrs. Mower, "I have traveled all over the world. You remind me very much of Stalin as I once saw him working in the Kremlin. He's a tough cookie, and you are too."

The Congressman from Georgia seemed to like this comparison, but he didn't budge regarding the UNRRA appropriation.

Why Hurley Boiled

What really made ex-cowboy Ambassador Pat Hurley boil over against the career diplomats was an incident that occurred when he was in Washington, on leave shortly after V-J Day.

During Hurley's visit in Washington, George Atcheson, an old "China hand," remained in acting charge of the U. S. Embassy in Chungking. In that capacity he sent a telegram to the State Department which said:

"I and the undersigned members of the Embassy staff wish to disclaim any responsibility for reports sent the State Department on the size and strength of the armies of Red China, and for the 'detrimental effects of United States policy here' as directed by Hurley."

Atcheson also complained that all communications between Embassy officials and Washington were censored by Hurley, without exception.

Hurley immediately flew into a rage. He claimed Atcheson had sent this cable behind his back. Many diplomats point out, however, that since Atcheson was in charge, it was his duty to report the facts as he saw them to the State Department.

Atcheson has spent about 30 years in China, Hurley less than two years. Immediately after serving as a second lieutenant in the last war, Atcheson entered the Far Eastern branch of the diplomatic service and has worked in almost every part of China. And although State Department officials have been of indifferent caliber in Europe, they have made a remarkable record in the Far East.

Hurley was so sore at the Atcheson telegram that the State Department was afraid there would be physical violence if the two men met in Chungking. So Atcheson was transferred to be adviser to Gen. MacArthur in Tokyo before Hurley's return.

Perhaps We Need Not Look Too Far For The Answer



Storm Signals In The Democratic Camp

By Marquis Childs

PRESIDENT TRUMAN'S request for legislation limiting the right to strike marks the beginning of a political break which promises to have far-reaching significance for 1946 and 1948.

Support for Truman within the CIO and the PAC already had been greatly weakened. Now within the inner councils of both organizations they are studying how best to react to their program of political action for the next three years.

There are big questions to be answered and grave doubts to be resolved. Many influential leaders of the CIO have all along had doubts of the strategy in the General Motors strike. President Phil Murray is said to have wanted to wait until after the end of the year at least before pressing any action against either steel or motors.

GM employees are almost certain to reject the President's request to return to work. Their leaders have pointed the way to refusal.

But what is worrying CIO leaders is whether any possible gain from out of the strike against America's largest corporation. GM can afford to be completely independent and even indifferent over the outcome.

Profits Guaranteed

The excess profits carryback, which will be in effect through 1948, practically guarantees the corporation profits regardless of whether GM plants are shut down by strikes. That is for '46.

So far as the balance of this year is concerned, the excess profits tax would in any event claim most of any additional revenue coming in. That goes for all large corporations that have had huge war contracts. As it works out, the corporations pay only a small percentage of the cost of a strike. Say, for example, that a plant has accumulated \$1,000,000 in excess profits. Under the law less 3.2 per cent of this would be paid over to the Treasury in excess profits tax. But if this company has a strike loss in the year of \$1,000,000, the actual loss to the company is only \$245,000. Because of the loss suffered in the strike the Treasury would not get the balance of \$855,000.

Walter Reuther's strategy was to keep GM's competitors operating so that the competitive squeeze would work to force GM's capitulation. In the rush to get into production in a highly competitive market the company could not stand up. That was the theory.

The Strategy Fails

It is not working out that way. GM parts plants which supply most of the industry with essential parts have also been shut down. Reuther says they will be required.

With a thoroughly disciplined union such a maneuver might be possible. But at this point all the inner frictions within the UAW, both at the top and at the bottom, come to light.

There are indications that industry, or some important segments of industry, believe that this is the time to break the power of the unions. Industry was never so well supplied with reserve funds. As the Securities and Exchange Commission showed in a recent report, the net working capital of American corporations has doubled since 1929.

Industry presents a united front. Reuther is talking about collusion and violation of the anti-trust laws. In the old New Deal days this talk might have produced action or a threat of action from Washington. But that day is gone.

As for the split, John L. Lewis, who will soon return to the AFL, has an undying hatred for Murray and the CIO. It may be significant that industrialists who took part in the recent Management Labor Conference came away with high praise for Lewis.

Adds Up To Defeat

Looking at it from the strategic point of view, you find it hard to see how this adds up to anything like victory for the UAW and the CIO. GM has shown a marked inclination to any form of conciliation and so have the steel companies.

But even in defeat, the CIO and its affiliates might win a tactical victory. If they were to force the third party in certain key states, they might decide the election in 1948.

The Republican National Committee is meeting in Chicago at the end of this week. They will be certain to take careful notice of the storm signals in the camp of the opposition.



"Well, yes—it is a little far from the city, but not a bit too far if they don't solve the atomic bomb problem!"

The UNO Catch-All

By Samuel Grafton

WHAT A mass of wrongs is being piled on the poor, little Nations Organization.

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more, we speak of it as an organization which must both arrange and maintain stability as we are beginning to regard it, not as an organization which must be as an organization to write the peace. And there is a kind of political bankruptcy involved in this growing tendency to file every hard question with an agency which still lacks a permanent mailing address.

As this tendency mounts, it is interesting to note that the Security Council, which has real power, but on which each major nation holds a veto, is beginning to lose popularity in western discussions, while the attention of some British and American statesmen seem to be turning toward the General Assembly, which has no real power, but on which there is no veto. Would it be unfair to deduce from Anthony Eden's recent speech, and from other utterances, an increasing desire to take power from the Council, and to give it to the Assembly?

Is there not implicit in this trend, as in President Truman's renunciation of further Big Three conferences, a break-down of the hope of achieving world stability through agreement, and the birth of a desire to achieve it by other means, by setting up parliamentary groups and formations?

Can we expect to find anything better at the end of that road than a split world in a split world organization, a break-down of the single roof that shelters them?

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The People's Platform

Footnote To A Footnote

By MARIE LONG RAKER, AND LOIS LONG RAKER
Owners, the Dixie-Dame Company, Stateville

We appreciate your giving space to our answer to the published statement by Mr. Bill Mitcham, District Executive, OPA, but we regret that your footnote makes a further statement from us necessary.

It is evident that your comments are based upon information furnished by OPA. This information is just as misleading and untrue as statements made by Mr. Mitcham in his previous article.

It is not clear to us why you say we chose to "ignore OPA's basic contention, as set forth in Mr. Mitcham's letter." It was our intention to "answer" his statements, not to "ignore" them.

We take up the several points made in your footnote as follows: 1. Your footnote shows a surprising ignorance of his own OPA records when he says, "His present record shows a sugar balance for 1941 use and is virtually equal to it." The 1941 base is 37,500 tons and the 1944 base for jams and jellies.

Our quota for the two classifications for the year 1945 was given us in a letter from the Charlotte OPA office, dated May 11, 1945, from which we quote as follows: "Pickles—Usage in 1941—23,000 lbs. sugar."

Jellies, Jams—Usage in 1944—37,500 lbs. sugar."

These allotments were divided by quarters. For the first quarter we received 70 per cent of the amount of sugar used during the corresponding quarters of 1941 and 1944: 65 per cent for the second quarter; 50 per cent for the third quarter; 50 per cent for the fourth quarter. Records of sugar use for 1941 are on file in our office and in the office of OPA, and refute Mr. Mitcham's contention.

2. Mr. Mitcham further states that "the Dixie-Dame Company" (the Dixie-Dame Company) were producing under Army contracts when they were allowed to produce national sugar, and this enabled them to increase the capacity of their plant. This is a complete lie.

The capacity of our plant was increased by the Army when we were producing under Army contracts when they were allowed to produce national sugar, and this enabled them to increase the capacity of their plant. This is a complete lie.

The capacity of our plant was increased by the Army when we were producing under Army contracts when they were allowed to produce national sugar, and this enabled them to increase the capacity of their plant. This is a complete lie.

Strikes have already dealt the reconversion process a severe blow and unless these disputes are cleared away and the nation's swift transition will have to be abandoned.

—PARKERSBURG, W. VA., Sentinel.

Quote, Unquote