

W. C. DOWD, JR.
FRIDAY, MARCH 30, 1945

The Merry-Go-Round

By Drew Pearson

IT HAD now been over a year since this column exposed Army tardiness in ordering the quick-release parachute, but unfortunately the old-fashioned triple-reef harness is still dragging some victims to death.

Latest tragedy was Lt. Joseph H. Burton Jr. of Los Angeles, drowned in the Warwick River, Virginia, after he was unable to unbuckle his parachute. The body, when found last week, showed that Lt. Burton had been able to unbuckle one buckle, but not the other two. The parachute was wrapped around his legs and had dragged him under the water.

Bretton Woods Veto

Despite the overwhelming vote of the people last November for international co-operation, a majority of the House Banking and Currency Committee is preparing to report unfavorably on the Bretton Woods agreement—first test of the willingness of Congress to participate in international organizations.

There has been overwhelming support of Bretton Woods from church, labor and business groups, but the twelve Republicans on the committee and two Democrats are ready to vote against the agreement as it now stands. The Democrats are Barry of New York and Baldwin of Maryland.

Lobbying against Bretton Woods has been conducted by the top layer of the American Bankers Association, which wants bankers free to make both long and short-term loans abroad without any Government control. The effect has been leveled against the stabilization fund without which the international bank would be largely futile.

The committee majority will probably not vote against the entire agreement, voting instead to tag on various amendments which will necessitate another international conference. Treasury and State Department officials are doubtful if, once we have rejected the Bretton Woods proposal, another agreement can be worked out.

FR & Al Smith

It was the late Al Smith who more than anyone else persuaded Franklin Roosevelt, then discouraged by his physical setback, to run for Governor of New York in 1925. The race gave FDR his real start toward the Presidency. Later Smith was bitterly critical of Roosevelt's domestic issues, but with the war they became more friendly. And when Al died last October, Roosevelt paid him a great tribute in his Boston speech.

Under a massive housing project being built near Oliver Street, the humble East Side district where Al Smith was reared. And to commemorate the man who came out of the slums to be Governor of New York, a committee is raising money to build a plaque in the center of the housing project. It will contain a fountain and a plaque to the memory of Alfred E. Smith.

When the fundraising committee wrote President and Mrs. Roosevelt, asking for a contribution, a check for \$10 came back from war-busy Franklin Roosevelt with no letter, another check for \$10 from Eleanor Roosevelt with no letter.

From Tom Dewey came a check for \$50 with a beautiful letter.

UNRRA Confirms

This column recently told how a British colonel, posing as an UNRRA worker in Greece, had been found with receipts showing British payments to Greek right-wing fascists to encourage them to fight the Greek left-wing. Simultaneously, the British Information Service issued a denial.

Later in the day, however, Reuters, the British news service, telephoned the UNRRA Public Relations Office and asked for comment on the story.

"What comment?" asked the UNRRA representative.

"You're going to deny it, aren't you?" said Reuters.

"No," replied UNRRA, "the story's true."

How To Cure An Appetite For Rich Fare



Two Kinds Of Censorship

By Marquis Childs

ON the basis of my own experience, I should say that political censorship of the news out of Western Europe is negligible. Occasionally it is invoked to protect the feelings of the Allies in the war, but such instances seem to be rare.

In Eastern Europe the story is quite a different one. American correspondents have not been permitted into countries liberated by the Soviet army. Briefly they were allowed in Bucharest, but Soviet censorship there made it impossible to write more than obvious impressions.

In Yugoslavia, during a brief stay, I encountered a political censorship that was severe and of the same type, exceedingly ugly. Having written two columns summing up surface impressions, I concluded by saying that it was clear that Marshal Tito still faced very grave problems.

He is confronted with ancient racial hatreds, fanned by Adolf Nazi propaganda aimed at setting Croat against Serb and Serb against Slovene. He must try to work toward the goals of democracy in a part of the world where dictatorship has been the rule rather than the exception. Granting Tito the utmost good will, it seemed to me then, as it does now, that the outcome can be determined only with infinite patience and the passage of time.

I then took my copy to the censor. He proved to be a storky, powerful-built officer of the Parvoan Army. He remained standing while an assistant read in Serbian what I had written. From time to time he made notes.

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Those Freight Rates

THE Supreme Court, by a 5 to 4 division, has agreed to hear the plea of Georgia for an injunction against inclusion in rate-making by Southern Railway and Western Railway, speaking for the minority, said such suits would bring chaos in the railroads. Chief Justice Stone, speaking for the plaintiffs could only mean the breakdown of the unitary system of interstate rates by (Interstate Commerce) Commission action, which Congress has authorized.

Georgia's suit to compel competition in rate-making by twenty Southern railroads is the second in the Federal court. A suit filed by the Department of Justice last year and expected to come to trial in May, charged 47 Western carriers with collusion to eliminate competition by fixing rates and high transportation charges. It asked that the roads be enjoined from further violation of the Federal anti-trust statutes.

When the Western suit was filed, ten weeks in advance of the 1944 election, railroad executives described it as "a pre-election ploy" and said it was a challenge to the Interstate Commerce Commission, which has been busy with its own rate-making and which is now engaged in a study looking toward increased uniformity in rates in various sections of the country. In the opinion of President Jefferson of the Union Pacific, the real target is the ICC, a regulatory body created by Congress.

Charges for moving merchandise from the South into Eastern territory have always been higher than the charges for moving supplies from the South into the rest of the country. The charges for moving supplies from the South into the rest of the country have always been higher than the charges for moving supplies from the South into the rest of the country.



Victory Blight

By Samuel Grafson

A LOT of "apathy" stories are coming out of France and Italy, about itself, how the French masses are losing interest in politics, how the Italian masses are also becoming indifferent. The Italians are beginning again to refer to the streets of Rome by their old fascist names, forgetting that many of these thoroughfares have been repainted with nice new democratic names. The French are described as uneasy, nervous, tired. Some of our correspondents wonder why there is not a more passionate interest in both countries; they expected a spirit more glib, more lasting.

But it is hard to show democratic spirit while sitting in a chair with nothing to do. How is a man to prove that he is a democrat when he has no task and little food? He might run around town for an hour a day, carrying little pamphlets, but that becomes wearisome after a bit, and, anyway, it doesn't get the job done. The way to show democratic spirit is to see ever poking hungry men to force them into sufficiently democratic action to realize that democracy is not a mood; it is a manner; it is a way of doing a job.

But a terrible tasklessness, a lack of nothing to do, seems to be the liberating ailment. The French are receiving only ten per cent as much goods under us, as under the Germans. In many countries they cannot run their railroads, they cannot run their mines, they cannot run their factories. They have been thrown into an antechamber of the war, and told to wait.

So long as the French are in this situation, it is futile to hold a political stethoscope to their hearts, to record the degree of their passion for democracy. The nation shows the democratic spirit

of the Italians of the South are in an even worse situation. Their national task, for some years come, is undoubtedly to be hungrier democratically, or unemployed in such a manner as to show faith in the British. The man? What difference does it make how you don't run a railroad?

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It doesn't offer up the confusion when the allied official who bids the Italian and to sit on the floor of a newspaper correspondent who reports they aren't moving.

Vacancy, Close-In

WE have been reading a pamphlet, "Tomorrow's City," in which five authorities in the field of community planning express their views. Their assignment was to discuss planning in relation to transportation (the bus and automobile kind), and though they proceeded on their way separately, it was interesting to see that they came out at about the same place.

For all five of them agreed that if the exodus from Intown to Suburbia continued at the rate it was going, the war, city streets wouldn't hold the traffic which was debauched upon them mornings and late afternoons, and bus companies couldn't begin to reach all areas with a service anywhere near satisfactory. Besides, the opening up of new sections would entail the expense (to somebody, either taxpayers or private citizens) of putting in sewer and electric lines, streets, garbage collection and so forth. So what?

So, said these authorities, cities ought to see what can be done with close-in residential areas already established, where all facilities are ready at hand, (and streets are paid for) and where work or recreation may be in walking distance. These areas not yet suitable for business but too far gone as livable neighborhoods to attract desirable new settlers. Property values in these areas are usually high, which is hard to explain since usually they yield a poor return on real estate. Nobody bothers to own it.

We don't know that the trend to Suburbia is to be halted or even much affected by anything which may be done to make close-in residential property more habitable. At any rate, that's what the authorities said had to be done if cities and the people in them want to save themselves a lot of grief.

A First Shot

The murder of the Allied-appointed burgomaster of Aachen should tell us something. His assassins were uniformed German paratroopers, they might as well have been young Nazis in civies. Instead of an underground movement. We will see a good deal of this bloody retaliation in the future.

Aachen has been a test case for British-American control of the German nation. Only as President Roosevelt said, our military men seek out anti-Nazi Germans to help keep order in the city. Our first experiments were with veteran Nazis and collaborationists, and they didn't work. The Hitler people whose lives they protected, strangely enough, to co-operate. We made, in the West, many little mistakes which were replicas of the big mistake the British made in Greece. But at last we came to Aachen, seeking honest men.

They were hard to find, for it was almost impossible to draw the line between Nazi and German. When finally we uncovered young Franz Oppenhef we apparently had found a trustworthy German. He behaved as such to the end, and parted with his life. Again and again, in other German towns, we must expect repetition of this incident. We will be forced to seek out obscure Germans to take over control of the new, temporary governments. They must be obscure, for every prominent member of the opposition to Hitler was forced to flee years ago—or has died under torture or in concentration camp.

In the end, certainly, the German nation will come to its feet, and the coming of peaceful days will not mark the end of Nazism. There will still be hundreds of thousands of the faithful to cling to the black creed, and other millions who will mourn its passing. We should be ready for that.

The Textile War

After a period of silence, the textile industry's struggle with Washington is stirring again. There are two fronts: 1. Profits. 2. Wages.

OPA Administrator Chester Bowles, scanning the record, had declared that the textile industry had reaped a "windfall" profit of some \$120,000,000 last year, largely at the expense of growers. This, he said, was made possible by the

Bankhead-Brown amendment to the Price Stabilization Act

Cladius Murchison, president of the Cotton-Textile Institute, waited a few weeks and came back with a challenge. Dr. Murchison says that the Bowles statement is false, and explains that only 64 per cent of the cotton consumed by the industry during 1944 was covered by ceiling prices based on parity. He said that growers had received parity or near-parity prices throughout—and that it was unjust to estimate profits on such a basis as Mr. Bowles had used.

That was one major disagreement. OPA and the industry, at this point, are millions of dollars and many ideological miles apart. There is more of the same regarding wages.

The War Labor Board, declaring textile wages substantial, provided a 55-cent per hour minimum wage so there, for one thing, production could be increased. This week the board's industry members dissented from that ruling, saying that higher wages would not guarantee higher production at all. They called to mind the past record, which has often shown that wages increase result in increased absenteeism and general slowdown. The industry is saying, in short, that wages must be kept low in the interest of high production.

New Combine

The new coalition of labor and management formed by the CIO, AFL, and the U. S. Chamber of Commerce isn't going to be an automatic and overwhelming success. It is not likely to move discernably toward its goal immediately. But this is a significant beginning.

For an intelligent understanding between capital and labor, and a sincere mutual attempt to anticipate and solve problems on a national level is a prerequisite to a sound economy for the war.

Erle Johnston has shown himself willing to accept labor's views and his personal record of dealing with labor is a shining one. He had led the U. S. Chamber of Commerce into a new position. It may, we suspect, feel awkward there, but it stands by the side of American labor for the first time, openly defending its fundamental right to organize and engage in collective bargaining.

And for American business it asks labor to pledge itself to support a system of free enterprise, to avoid encroaching upon the rights of management itself, and to help resist unnecessary governmental interference.

That is the broad basis for the coalition which signed the new charter. And it is difficult to imagine that any great group on the American scene could find fault with those objectives, which are clearly to the benefit of all.

It is our idea that Mr. Johnston has long since seen the light, and has an intelligent view of the years ahead of us in this country. By that token, we can only assume that President Ira Musher of NAM has not seen the light, that he has not seen about the American labor movement distasteful that he is unwilling to pledge his powerful group of business firms even to enter into the agreement.

There is no doubt in our minds that it is Mr. Johnston who is demonstrating valuable leadership, and NAM which is dragging behind and slowing our progress. We believe that the view will prove that, and hold the hope that this three-way charter of labor and management will endure and expand.

Statesmen At Work

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

REP. RICH (Pa.) proposed a cut in the appropriation for the Department of Agriculture in 1946 operations, when:

MISS SUMNER of Illinois. In case anybody should charge you with retelling only two or three votes on your amendments, you can count me whether you hear my name or not, because I'm voting with you.

Mr. RICH. I realize the body is for economy in the operation of Government. But we should be on the other side of the House. Our people on this side are pretty much discouraged, because they get in trying to get down the appropriations. The Democratic side like the majority and that is the side that is responsible for the great expenditure. If those men think that the people of this country are always going to be satisfied with their spending and spending and spending, they have to be satisfied when they tax them and let them pay. They know who they can put the blame on. It is the men at the head

someone else. I do not know who is responsible for it, but it reads: TAX: Now he is a common man—Tax him, tax him all you can, Tax his wife, tax his car, Tax the bald spot on his head, Tax his bread, tax his meat, Tax his shoes, tax his pants, Tax his pipe and tax his smoke, Teach him government is no joke. Tax the water, tax the air, Tax the road that he must pass, Tax the farmer, tax his fowl, Tax his wife, tax his car, Tax his plow and tax his clothes, Tax the rags that wipe his nose, Tax his radio and tax his equal, Tax the boots run down at heel, Tax his cow and tax his calf, Tax his barn and tax his lands, Tax his lawyers and his hands, Tax his pig and tax his dog, Tax the sunlight if you dare, Tax the wind, tax the dead,

I then took my copy to the censor. He proved to be a storky, powerful-built officer of the Parvoan Army. He remained standing while an assistant read in Serbian what I had written. From time to time he made notes.

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Victory won't terminate our obligations. It will mean, rather, that having disposed of the pretenders who tried to impose their own quick remedies, we will have earned anew the right to discharge our obligation to discover and apply sound means. —Herbert Adams, president Colgate Co.

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