FRIDAY, JANUARY 11, 1946

# A Taxi Monopoly?

The City Council, which is apparently to surmount the legal obstacles that lie in the way of positive action to relieve the housing shortage, is, we eather, endowed with enough authority to justify its approach to the shortage of taxis. In fact, it appears from the rather violent testimony offerfrom the rather violent testimony ordered by cab operators and others, that the Council has authority to create and maintain a taxi monopoly in Charlotte if it cares to.

Indeed, the question of controlling the well as the question of providing more whether the present companies should remain alone in the field or whether additional companies can and should be licensed.

An attorney for the Yellow and Red Top companies told the Council in open meeting that any effort to increase the number of cabs now operating in Char-lotte would ruin the taxi business, leadlotte would ruin the taxi business, leading to rate wars and forcing the drivers to take up bootlegging on the side. It would appear that he is insisting, on moral grounds, that the City Council should act to prevent any new competition in the taxi field, even though there obviously aren't enough cabs in service to meet the needs of the community.

It seems to us that the licensing powers of the City can properly be used only to establish and maintain certain minimum standards in taxl service, standards that are badly needed at the moment. Certainly the Council can, and moment. Certainly the Council can, and should, forbid known criminals to operate taxi cabs, and it could and should devise ordinances that would make the operating company immediately and definitely responsible for its drivers' misdeeds. In our view, the operating company should be penalized when one of its drivers is convicted of bootlegging or pandering, and repeated offenses should lead to the suspension not only of the driver's license, but of the company's.

cense, but of the company's.

Having set these standards, and first sured their enforcement, we see no reason why the Council shouldn't license any operator who is willing to live up to them. We might, perhaps, have too many taxis temporarily, but competition, which would improve service as well as lower rates, would soon take care of the situation.

Among the interested parties appearing before the Council in the matter
there has been no one to represent the
taxi-riders. That is the function of the
City Fathers, and any action that doesn't
ultimately provide more, better and
cleaner taxis doesn't meet their clear
obligation in the matter.

## Impossible Compromise

When President Truman released the report of the Pearl Harbor investigating committee shortly after the end of the war he pronounced what seems has come his guiding principle: The blame for that disaster lies not with the political and military leaders of the period, but with the people of the United States who were divided among themselves. He advanced the same theory, in inverted fashion, when he appealed a few days ago for the people to unite and bring ago for the people to unite and bring pressure to bear on a recalcitrant Con-gress that has sabotaged his reconver-sion program. And, we presume, he would use the same argument to ex-plain the disgraceful mass demonstra-tions in Manila and Frankfurt, which indicate a complete and dangerous col-lapse of Army morale.

And it is true enough—the demonstra-tions are the direct product of the con-fusion in America, of the purposeless drift that has marked all our affairs, foreign and domestic, since the end of the war. But another question arises logically enough—who is to blame for the sad state of public morale?

How can the people of the United How can the people of the United States unite in support of, or in opposi-tion to, a policy that exists, if it exists at all, in the minds of only a few men? Are we preparing for peace, or are we preparing for another war? Are we go-ing to try to lead the world toward a

new, peaceful era of international understanding through the United Nations Organization we have sponsored, or are we going to wield a big stick, or a big atom, and force the world to leave us alone?

alone?

There is no compromise possible between these two positions. If we pin our faith in the United Nations Organization there is no need to maintain garrisons in the Pacific and in Europe, as we are now doing, beyond the police needs of the Armies of Occupation. If we choose to wield a big stick, we not only can't think of bringing the low-pointers home, we've got to get busy sending still more young men overseas to join them. to join them.

The issues have never been explained, either to the soldiers overseas or to the civilians at home. The mood in which America will accept the sacrifice either course will require has been allowed to languish in these few months of uncertain peace. And the blame, we think, rests largely with a President who hasn't been able to make up his own

It is possible, as we are now finding 14: 25 possible, as we are now finding out, to sow a whirlwind by negative means as well as by positive action. And, a few more months of indecision will insure one terrible result—another futile effort to bury our heads in the sands of isolationism.

## The Prophet Returns

The Prophet Ham, who had dropped out of our ken during the war years, will be with us again soon, and we shall be interested in seeing how the passing years have treated him. He was bearing up right well when he last stopped off in Mecklenburg to save all available leads to the contract of the property of the propert able local souls, and to damn all those who didn't care to hit his sawdust trail.

Back in 1934 the Prophet was as unin-hibited an evangelist as ever sent out a call. Nothing slowed him up much— slander suits, the denuniciation of re-spectable churchmen, the unqualified opposition of this newspaper. He wrestled with the devil day after day, and be didn't leave until the flow of the faithful, and of their dollars, had dwindled away.

In those dim days the Prophet handed flown stimulating statements like these: "The present administration is com-posed mostly of apostate Jews."

"All your kidnappers and gangsters come from the crowd that loves liquor, that goes to Sunday ball games, and that advocates Sunday movies."

And, of course, the Prophet made short shrift of those who arose to question these revelations. "Not a hand has been lifted against my campaigns in three years but God has brought a curse on the man that lifted it." Sometimes he was more general: "My observation was that most of the victims of the fluwer not Christians."

Oh, the Prophert Ham was a powerful men in those days. No question about it, and if there had been, he had a ready answer. "The very miracles God has answer. "The very miracles God has done through me have amazed me as much as the public," he announced, in all humility.

all huminy.

Of course he stayed with us for weeks
at a time in those days. Lately he has
rushed through the town, setting up for
a one-night stand and moving to other
pastures after a couple of "services", a one-night stand and moving to other pastures after a couple of "services", That appears to be his plan for his forthcoming engagement, but his an-nounced topic is interesting. In the af-ternoon his "sermon" will deal with "The Atom—When The World is On Fire", and in the evening he will take up "General MacArthur's Prophecy". Those are two tine springboards, of course, and the Prophet is certain to get to liquor, jew-

ry, the Pope, and all his other favorite subjects before the hat is passed for the last time.

last time.

There has always been some question to the Prophet's mind, although not in ours, as to his mortality, but we expect that the years have taken some toil. He can't be expected to put on the sort of show that was his specialty a decade ago, when he addressed his opposition: "The Lord will put you who are opposing this campaign in a casket and you will die and go to Hell with the devil's crowd." The fact that so many of us are still around may be discouraging to even the Prophet.

But, of course, a man who is unin-hibited by respect for truth and decency can work up a right good show at any age. The Prophet's act may still be worth the price of admission.

A hat bearing the initials A. H. has been found in the ruined Reichschancel-lery, beneath a chair. A theory is that whoosis was walking under it.

Add to the long, sad roll of the departed: The tablecloth battle strategist; the designer of arrows for war maps; the voice of radio that never faltered at Dnieperpetrovsk.

It is hardly a surprise that Rita Hay-worth, the girl he used to saw in two, asks a divorce from Orson Welles. Some-how we felt this triangle couldn't last.

Somehow, cartoons haven't seemed the same since the passing of the Duce, a character who showed up with 5 o'clock shadow in the noon edition, even.

A western wife sues for divorce because her man who stepped out 15 years ago for a beer has not returned. Maybe he stopped to bowl.

Another baritone who is "better than Sinatra" pops up, in Hollywood. It isn't exactly what the world wanted, but feed him and send him on.

### **Politics** Damper To GI Morale

WASHINGTON
COME people may have been surprised at the flare-up of Of
mass-meetings following the announcement that demobilisation
would be delayed. Certainly, however, the general staff in Washington should not have been surprised.

would be dealyed Certainly, wornington should not have been auriprised.

Anyone reading the evidence at the control of the con

### CENSORSHIP COVERED

Dorothy Thompson

CENSORSHIP COVERED

However, whether conscripted or not, no army is efficient unless, morale is high. The conscripted or not, no army is efficient unless, morale is high. The conscripted or not, no army is efficient unless, morale is high. The conscripted or not are to seen the construction of the construction of the construction of injustice and resembnent.

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Most people don't realize it, but during the war the American public was she people don't realize it, but during the war the American public was she people don't realize it, but during the war the American public was she inside the Army.

But the men inside the Army, here what was going on, though they could not write home about they are not only writing home, but to their service papers, and steemed their own army. If we did not write home about they are not only writing home, but to their service papers, and stitle more demoracry right inside their own army. If we did not would mot be this outburst, But the American Army today is the demoratic system at home, and now they would like to see a little more demoracry right inside their own army. If we did not would mot be this outburst, But the American Army today is the demoratic system at home, and now they would like to see a little more demoracry right inside their own army. If we did not the demoratic system at home, and now they would be the common and the proposed people.

Today we are neither strong nor morale and efficiency inside the strong of the proposed people.

The proposed people was a proposed people.

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The proposed people was a proposed people.

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### REVISE WEST POINT

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1. Aboilsh political appointments
to West Point and base them entirely on merit, There is no reason
why we should still follow the anward was a still the still a still a still
man is entitled to appoint hows
to West Point as a means of aiding his own relection. The army
should be above politics. Instead
tel West Pointers be chosen from
ward for efficiency and devotion
to duty.

to duly.

2. Award all commissions from the ranks, except in the case of specialists in wartime. Let every man go in as a private and let the best men get promoted on the basis of sheer ability, not personal

best in the state of the state

### ARMY CASTE SYSTEM

who look out for their men.

ARMY CASTE SYSTEM

Cut out, for instance the system whereby the 1268th Engineering combat battalion has to move out of a healthy camp site near Manifer and the system of a healthy camp site near Manifer and the system of the system whereby football players and baseball players get dischurged ahead of high-particular system of the system whereby closely and system of the system whereby closely and system of the war because of the war because of the system whereby closely and system of the war because of the

hation.

They also have it within their power to revamp our antiquated system and build one of the best armies in the world. But conscription in the world. But conscription have a strong army unless favortism, personal political pull and the caste system are made as defunct as certain types of pre-atom warfator.



## Who Still Loves This Republic?

armies are anything but "ambassadors" in Europe.

THEY WIN CONTEMPT
Unedwated for their task, unclear of their country's goal, unclear of their country's goal, untheir country's goal, untheir country's goal, untheir country's goal, untheir and their country's goal, untheir are the visible symbols of a
great democracy. From first inspiring awa and respect, they are
rapidly witning only contempt, and
they are they are
rapidly witning only contempt, and
the better disciplined. The British
from first awarkened disans, are
though first awarkened disans, are
the the state of the state of the state
the sta

"whip hand." Consumers, as greedy after goods as they had been for years on the verge of starvation, included in buying spreas, regardless of warmings of inflation.

The Government, passing the buck to "fact-finders," washes its hands.

MORAL COLLAPSE

at agan speed, loundy assuring the authority of the companies.

The Administration sends missions to make investigations and such as the control of the cont

Tower of Babel, in which words no longer convey common mean-

no longer convey common mean-ings.
Socialists present themselves as liberals: Communists call them-selves progressives: economic liberals are attacked as fascists; Ex-Fas-cists denounce non-liberals. EMOTIONAL ARGUMENT

MORAL COLLAPSE

Crime waves sweep the country.
Public and private decorum is at an all-time low.

Night clubs are jammed.
Drunkenness is a disgraceful public spectacle, unsurpassed since the days of bathutb gin.

Foreign visitors, from countries gray with humers and privation.

Foreign visitors, from countries gray with humers and privation.

Soliders, whose initial with was a least some sense for reality and solidarity.

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From The Carolina Israelite:

# A Strange Freedom

HERE is an authentic letter from, a retuge woman who escaped the Nard terror and has just been admitted to citizenship in our country:

"I was first of all impressed by your general fearlessness. Cellideren are not-afraid of their parents, students are not fariad of their parents, students are not fariad of their teachers, men of their bosses.

occurrence of the control of the con

## Beryoody Happy? . Mercel Chil The Pentagon Wrote A Bill



switt collapse to separate the separate that if it had not been for the active protests of many scientification of the second of

ing the war would then have been continued into the peace.

GROVES' FOWER

'Those who fought the May-Johnson Bill believe in Lought the May-Johnson Bill believe in Lought the May-Johnson Bill believe in Lought in Lou

### FINDING A MAN

FIXDING A MAN

It is quite clear, however, that under the
May-Johnson Bill the administrator would
have been the real boss of the project. The
commissioners would have been part-time advisers, meeting once a month to supervise
and approve or disapprove what had been
added.

and approve or disapprove what had been done.

The two scientists whose protests were most effective were Dr. Harold C. Urey. Nobel prize winner now of the University of Chicago, and Dr. Leo Salland. They had College, and Dr. Leo Salland. They had project. The control of the project of the

Samuel Grafton

## The GOP Sees A Fission

NEW YORK



THE OHIO GANG

might bugger, in an analytic with prosper in harmony, and an analytic with prosper in his manner in the prosper in the prosper in the prosper in the washington hears) the opening gun in a formal war, designed to blook the nomination in the prosper in the proposition of the prosper in the prosper in the prosper in the proposition profession, it is not so, as compared with the ruly high figures in the Republican Party, with Tatt, Bricker, Bryomeli, by Morse, Newbold Morris, Ball and States, lacks size and reach; it is quite tiny, ONE-MAN COMMITTEE.



"Your boy friend will just have to eat in the kitchen with ather's income tax papers are spread dining room table till March 15th and can't be disturbed!" on the di