

# THE CHARLOTTE NEWS Drew Pourson

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SATURDAY, JANUARY 12, 1946

#### Wrong Number

We have, with a mighty effort, at-tempted to keep our editorial approach to current labor disputes uncolored by our personal annoyance at the various inconveniences we have suffered. Strikes, we believe, are only a surface manifestation of a deep-rooted national

manifestation of a deep-rooted national selfishness, and it is unfair to single out the striker among 130,000,000 citisens who are all attempting to make a tilling out of war-born shortages.

However, the strike of the various telephone unions appears to have become a personal issue between the striker and the telephone subscriber. We, along with several thousand other local citiens, have been prevented from placing essential long-distance calls by signing operators who, we are convinced, have operators who, we are convinced, have no clear idea why they have decided against putting the proper jack in the

proper hole.

It would be understandable, and in It would be understandable, and in the spirit of the times, if the operators had elected to suspend service in order to force their employer to raise wages, shorten hours or improve working conditions. But this is a sympathy strike, and the root cause lies somewhere beyond the elaborate ramifications of the Telephone Company's corporate structure and of the various telephone unions. From at the very bottom of a long AS. and of the various telephone unions. Down at the very bottom of a long As-sociated Press story reporting picket lines around telephone exchanges across the nation there is the revealing note that the strike started with 17,000 West-ern Electric workers, who have no direct

### Another

"We have nothing to fear save fear."
said Franklin Roosevelt at a moment
when deflation was the number one national problem. Earlier, when the depression was first taking hold. Herbert Hoover had also proclaimed that noth-ing was basically wrong with the coun-try except an excess of loose talk, which

ing was basically wrong with the country except an excess of loose talk, which was frightening businessmen. The problem now is inflation, but there are still public men who there are still public men who there are still public men who they are verything will be fine if we'll just stop shaking in our boots and get to work. The latest to join the chorus is Robert Moses, New York Park Commissioner, who admits that things are pretty tough in the building industry but adds: "If the gossige and loose-talkers will get ready for a big early Spring construction program ar reasonable prices such a program will certainly materialize."

Mr. Moses holds that some of the current fears of building contractors, most of whom either refuse to bid for new jobs or place their estimates so high prospective builders are driven back into hiding, are groundless. "I have personally received bids for work not only in heavy construction, but involving buildings, which have been reasonable and

which have been reasonable and

connection with the pickets, but who are trying to obtain a \$6-a-week wage in-

crease.

It is difficult to understand how a

crease.
It is difficult to understand how a suspension of long-distance service is going to assist the Western Electric strikers. Our wrath is certainly not discreted against the Beil Telephone System, which, so far as we can determine, has no quarrel with the employees who have refused to handle our calls. Moreover, this strike, like the one that preceded it a few weeks ago, embodies a strange element of caprice. The operators are in holiday mood, apparently finding the break in their normal routine quite a lark. And this, we think, as measure of the irresponsibility of the union leaders, who have asked their members to walk off their job in simpath with a side that the control of the c

the telephone workers are going to find that they have hurt, rather than helped the cause of the Western Electric strikers. And, some day in the future, when the telephone unions find it necessary to come to grips with their own employers, they will also discover that their irresponsible gesture has allenated in advance the public support without which any strike is doomed to failure. the telephone workers are going to find

### **Optimist**

fair in the light of present conditions, and some of which have been fairly close to 1939-40 figures." Well, it's pleasant to hear such lusty

Well, It's pleasant to hear such lusty optimism, even if we do have painful memories of Mr. Hoover's program of prosperity through silence. Probably, as Mr. Moses suggests, we could build the country out of trouble in a fairly short time if everybody concerned would stop belly-aching and go to work. But, unfortunately, there is human nature standing squarely in our path.

In fact, it is a peculiar kind of optimism that is hamstringing us now. No-body is interested in a fair profit, which is currently obtainable: everybody, it

is currently obtainable; everybody, it seems, is looking forward to the great

seems, is looking forward to the great big profit which will come when Mr. Truman's tottering Administration finally collapses into the ruins of the OPA.

Maybe what we need is a more loose-talk, more gossip, more gloom-spreading. A great big shot of fear might be just what the country has to have; apparently nothing milder will bring home the realization that the collapse of the OPA will bring a great many proud, free enterprises crashing down beside it.

### **Necessity Clause**

Never in all history has there been a New Year so calculated to destroy all the good resolutions passed in good faith on the first day of it, and we are in complete sympaths with Editor W. G. Hazel of the Pee Dec Advocate, who made only two and saw one shattered before 1946 was 24 hours old.

ading the obituaries of his contem-ries, Editor Hazel resolved not to ork so hard in 1946. But printing orders kept flooding into the Advocate, and the Rept Hooding into the Advocate, and the Colonel, who seems to be half the me-chanical staff, fell by the wayside. "The Colonel's epizooties, or whatever it is that people like the Colonel have, crept up on him, and he is the one who has been doing the resting ... while Jim and I have been doubling up," Mr. Hazel informed his subscribers.

formed his subscribers.

His excurisons into the back room brought him into contact with a Linotype machine, and this immediately jeopardized his other resolution—to stop cussing. It was during the years when he was first mastering Mr. Mergentha-ler's fabulous brainchild, he reported, that "I gained my proficiency in cussing, and the accomplishment, if it can

ing, and the accomplishment, if it can be called that, has never left me."

Silli, despite the hazards of the hung matrice. Editor Beasley is able to report that Resolution Number Two, only slightly amended, has survived. "I decided to stop cussing except when it is absolutely necessary. I don't think Twe broken that one yet. However, it does seem that it's been necessary more than usual so far. Every time I pick up a newspaper I see where another bunch of bustards (Note to Jim: Set that last word as written, not as you know I must word as written, not as you know I must mean it. It's a perfectly good English word meaning a type of goose.) have gone on strike or are threatening to

strike."

We congratulate Editor Hazel on his fortitude, but we fear the necessity clause in Resolution Number Two will soon make the whole thing meaningless. The way the geese are flocking out of factories the length and breadth the land it seems likely that the office of the Advocate will be filled with sulphur and brimstone right around the clock.

From The High Point Enterprise:

### On Law Enforcement

Judge Don MacRae of the municipal Sugge Don Mackae of the municipal court is reported as saying that part of the current liquor transportation laws are "silly." The report likewise quoted local municipal and county officers as saying that our current dry laws are "unenforceable."

Before some of our well-meaning but poorly-informed citizens jump on both the judge and the officers for these rehich we rather expect will—we hasten to get on the side of the judge, the cops and the deputies.

the judge, the cops and the deputies.

Silly? Of course it's silly. It a party
of fire adults in an automobile are
found with 25 fifths of liquor—and
that's one more than two cases if you
don't already know it—and none of the
liquor has been opened, it's legal. Thecops can't do anything about it. (We
are assuming that this is Federal tax
paid liquor.) But if the same group is
found in a car containing a couple of
pints of liquor, one of which has been
opened, somebody is guilty of a crime.
(And that goes whether or not the driver
of the car ever took a drink in his
lift.)

Ite.)
Is that silly or not? And remember it sopplies even though the driver of the first car is a known bootlegger while the second ear is full of deacons plus

one gent taking home some "snake bite medicine" about which the others know nothing. That's the law.

nothing. That's the law.

Few are more prompt to criticize the courts or the law enforcement officers for dereletion of duty than are we But possible for them tools in the critical possible for them tools in the possible for them tools in the critical possible for them tools in the possible for the present circumstances, and we wonder how many people really want them to do it.

The only remedy is through the State legislature or—if you are more interested in law observance than in what the law is—you might reduce much of the liquor law breaking by control, but not all of it.

all of it.

Anyhow, it's high time that the citizens who do nothing and talk a lot stop blaming the cops and the court and go take a look in the mirror.

The position of Mr. Murray relative to the Truman 30-day cooling-off pro-posal is now clear. According to Phil, it wouldn't be any good even if it was any good.



Chester Bowles also had talked with Big Steel leaders. His talks were far more energetic, more persuasive than Snyder's. Bowles once ran one of the best advertising firms in the Nation, is an excellent salesman. All his salesmannship was turned on Big Steel leaders.

salesman. All his salesmanship was turned on Big Steel leaders.

"You are going to have a bigger margin of profit than you resize."

"You are going to have a bigger margin of profit than you resize."

ing 44 hours in the mills and 52 hours in your captive mines. When you drop to 40 hours, you will not a big saving in overtime. The large is a big saving in overtime. The large is a big saving in overtime. The large is will drop in the Spring, which means more saving. Production per man went up to per cent after the last war. It will do the same after this war will be so will be

pression.

"After the last war, steel wages soared even without union pressure. Bowles summarized. "So did prices. And once inflation gets going, and have labor coming the state of the st

inflation is on.

The President, however, had made up his mind.
"Do your best," he told Bowles, as the interview ended, "You know we're all behind you."

SNYDER FORGOT

SNYDER FUNDOM
Decision to give a fat hike to
teel was communicated to the
Jabinet at a White House luncheon
text day. The announcement was
o be made at 4 P. M. that day,

who guards his office. "He can't see or talk to anyone this afterneon." It him that a more handful
or 10,000 steel workers who are
going out on strike Monday have
some ideas they want to get to
him, shot back one of Murray's
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### How The Steel Companies Got Prices Raised

WASHINGTON
MOST of the President's appointments are very brief. Senators get fifteen minutes with him.
Congressmen get



Truman. Observers knew heat was on to increase of steel, and sell inflat I enemy on giving the I first big inflationary sho arm.

When Bowles entered the Presi-dent's office, the die was already cast. Truman had decided that

oul: a new increased wage scale
without a sharp price hike?

Try
be without a sharp price hike a sharp pr

stop."
STEEL SAYS "NO"
Steel leaders shrugged their shoulders.

shoulders.

Bowles offered them a price increase of \$2.50 per ton to compensate for low pre-war prices on certain types of special steel. But John Steel But Steel But Good of the steel steel but they could get considerably more. He let the east out of the bud that Triman could not and would not afford a strike. The Administration's bargaining power See See With the health already.

Administration's bargaining power ag gone.

So, with the battle already lost, Chester Bowles went to the White House. He made home of his junior advisers had urged him to resign if he lost the inflation battle. But he did warn the President quietly, ferendly, that this would be the first great break [1] the lost he would be the first great break [1] the lost so, nevery other in the present of the present the second of the present of the

in the Inflation dyke, other inturns are supported by the Inflation of Inflation Inflation Is on.

The President, however, had

to be made at 4 P. M. that day. One hour after lunch this fact leaked to Phil Murray's steel exceed to Phil Murray's steel workers union. Also it leaked out that fumbling John Snyder planned to amountee the price hike without first getting a commitment of the property of the planned to the water large steel the planned to throw away his chief bargatining power again. Frantically, Phil Murray's office called Secretary of Labor Schwellenbach.

lenbach.
"The Secretary of Labor is very busy today," replied the young lady who guards his office. "He can't see or talk to anyone this after-



Dorothy Thompson

## For An Economic Philosophy

per cent or a 50 per cent increases in wages. Is no argument to my mind, however, that it should as the control of the control

Awa in its controversy with G. M.
SOUND THEORY
However, labor's thesis that the
economy should attempt to keep
prices level and profits stable,
the stable of the stable of the stable of the
livity in higher waxes rather than
in inflated profits or lower prices,
sound.
It is easier to add gains in productivity to waxes than to guarant
lower prices, since prices are less
determined by cost than by market
demand, and consumers caunot be
over prices, since prices are less
determined by cost than by market
demand, and consumers caunot be
retaralized.
Monopolishe practices, each such
arreements, militate against price
dross.
This is of advantage to meet SOUND THEORY

arrements, militate against price froms.

There of advantage to most write a construction of the construct

LEST ANYONE should draw strong conclusions from what has been said in this column on the General MotorsAWA controversy, let me say that I be should be presented in the present in the present of the rate of increase or decrease of productivity which would permit when the present controversy is if I properly inderstand. The fact that a single member of an industry or a new process of the same of the rate of increase or decrease of the rate of increase or decrease of productivity which would permit when the present controversy is, if I properly inderstand the present of the rate of increase or decrease of productivity which would permit when the present of the premise in the present of the premise in the present of the premise of th

The People's Platform

GRATER OPPORTUNITY
Either workers must have some of
the privilers, opportunities and responsibilities of owners, or increasing numbers of them will vote toevenhause their present bases for
Shre I think that be so doing
they will built cermanently evenfron
their propertyless status. I am
against it.

heir propose, and realist it.

But if the capitalist system remains a proletarian system, it won't see able to comete with the real or recurity and county.

## **Gun And Bible**

By EVA GRANT

By EVA GRANT

THERE is an old saying that
money can buy anything, and
that's just about richt, when people will sell their right to vote. I
have heard some of our good citizens say. 'I voted for the one that
paid me the most.'

Just for once, let's stop and
think. You can spend a dollar in
a minute. The man that you vote
eight years to make laws and to
enforce them. And President Truman said our senators were not
congress.

It is well to remember that

It is well to remember that

where they left off.

The man with money wants more money, so the only way we work in people will get any of that money is to get together and stay for what they can get and not for their country, we put them there any we can take we have the country, but a few people have most of it, and if we don't sell our votes but put them in the right place the money will lose only with the property was the property of the people where the people was the people where the people was the people with the people was the pe

### The Search For A

GREENSBORO The full page ad on 14A, Dec. 2 1945, is the strongest, most

The full page at on 14A, Dec 22, 1848. Is the strongest, most effective ad I have ever seen. Maybe I was in a receptive mood, my wife having walked out on me to take up with a full colonel (married) in Kunming, China-but, nevertheless it is A-Pius and I am keeping it for reference. I hope I find some day a Jones (NOTE: Thie letter was signed, but we decided to withhold the officer's name even though he didn't request it. The advertiseing he have been been been decided to a fond wife embracing her uniformed husband, and a note addressed to the state of the st

Marquis Childs Nobody Ever **Explains Why** 



THE ARMY is in serious trouble swer relationship in the Puliphene medium of the profit of the profit

Samuel Grafton

### **GI** Troubles Are Not Local

NEW YORK
THE GI demonstrations all around the
world can be blamed partly on Congress,
for it is Congress which has set up to the congress.



mains a proleptarian astern, it would be able to commete with the real of acuted greater security and centre of the propertunity.

THE GI demonstrations all around the world can be blamed partly on Congress. For helts more security and greater opportunity.

THE GI demonstrations all around the world can be blamed partly on Congress. For the control of the propertunity and greater opportunity.

THE GI demonstrations all around the world can be blamed partly on Congress. The congress of the control of the propertunity and greater opportunity.

The GI demonstrations are conversed to the control of the propertunity of the works are conversed to the control of which the GI demonstrations have been did not catablish a prevailing the GI that anythine for the works are considered to the control of the propertunity of the control who can demonstrate the course as its program, and that it has chopy to the country they foucht for and won for I know we have some undawn for I know we for I know we have some undawn for I know we for I know we have the some undawn for I know we for I know we have some undawn for I know we for I know we have the some undawn for I know have th

their emotions and, alone, to regulate themselves by considerations of the national good.

\*\*\* UP THE ALLEY

In their contusion, the Ola are turning to Congress, and strafting Congressemen with cablegrains demanding immediate demobilished the Congress of the Ola are turning to the Congress of the Ola are turning to the West of the Congressional alley, this kind of kick-tit-over (siamantling of the war effort is exactly what the conservative this kind of kick-tit-over (siamantling of the war effort is exactly what the conservative dentit the demands of the Olis in exactly the same spirit in which it conveys to him the demand of the National Association of Manufacture of the National Association of Manufacture of the National Association of Manufacture of the National Association of the Olis of included in their number are for the Olis of included in their number are of the Olis in exactly the control of the Olis in exactly the oliver of the Olis of the Olis of included in their number are the reconversion make sense.

many who light at . Tumans exists to make the reconversion make sense.

The GI has a case for a Congressional investigation of the unfairness of demobilisation procedures; but the GI's political problem is an extremely infrised one, and he will be paying a high price for a somewhat quicker tieket home if the result is total collapse of our warnine centrols and organizing that the war is over and that we can forget all about it.

For some of those intent on specing-time

