

Missouri Compromise

All the straws are blowing in the same direction—toward a settlement of the nation's labor troubles by raising price levels to take care of the wage increases demanded now by virtually every union doing business in these United States.

The strike, the daddy of them all, is still pending at this writing, but it seems certain that the final agreement will be based on a four dollar a ton increase in the price of steel. According to reliable reports President Truman has already agreed. Despite Chester Bowles' declaration that anything beyond \$2.50 would break the line he has been struggling to hold against inflation.

In anticipation of that breach, industrial stocks responded last week in what was described as an "almost-stamping bull market" that left the stock tape behind. And, significantly, it wasn't alone that ran ahead of the tickers and other shares and other things upward for the good reason that the increased-price settlement in steel sets the pattern for all other strike-bound industries.

The decision faced by President Truman is a simple one. He has to decide whether, in effect, there will be more workers on strike this month than at any time before in this country's history, or whether price control will operate on a new and higher level. And *Stamps Week* goes on to point out:

Yielding on the price front brings the current strike threat, but removes no final

A Welcome Visitor

Winston Churchill arrived in the United States yesterday, coming this time in the strange role of private citizen with no earth-shaking duties to perform. His destination is Florida and his object a vacation in the sun.

Americans have a personal fondness for Mr. Churchill, who exceeds their affection for most of their own great men and the knowledge that it is declining health that brings him here is depressing. Certainly, nothing less would take him away from London, where the United Nations, which he has coaxed into his well as to Franklin Roosevelt, is now forming.

He has been strangely quiet for months, arising only on rare occasions to level one of his rolling bursts of rhetoric against the Axis Government, but he has been strangely quiet for months, arising only on rare occasions to level one of his rolling bursts of rhetoric against the Axis Government, but he has been strangely quiet for months, arising only on rare occasions to level one of his rolling bursts of rhetoric against the Axis Government.

The Happy Politician

The politician's lot, if we may paraphrase Messrs. Gilbert and Sullivan, is not a happy one, and the only officeholders whose digestive juices are flowing at the proper rate these turbulent days are those who are equipped with a two-way stretch mentality a mind which absorbs, catalogs and pigeonholes each new problem as it arises. These gentlemen, of course, never lack a ready answer and they acquire an enviable reputation for consistency.

One of the happiest politicians is Theodore Bilbo of Mississippi, who, at 88, is preparing for two more pleasant terms in the Senate. His latest campaign has been formally opened now. The Man has already disposed of a half-dozen controversial items that have left his colleagues staring into the dark through long, sleepless night. Take universal military training, for instance. Most Democratic Senators are caught in the middle, for the President has declared himself in favor of placing all able-bodied young men under arms for a year. Yet many a Senator figures that (1) it's a break with American tradition, (2) it's in the cost to a lot of money, (3) in the

From The Spartanburg Herald:

South Carolina's Voting

The Charleston News and Courier thinks it rather heroic that The Spartanburg Herald-Journal should have advocated a secret ballot, and at the same time recognized the fact that there are the stirrings of a "conservative party" inside the Democratic Party in South Carolina.

Some months ago, when this subject was under discussion, a friend who is doing pretty well in his business, remarked to his conservative Democratic friends: "Well, if I keep on doing as well as I am, in a year or so I'll be rich enough to vote against Roosevelt myself."

So The News and Courier will understand, I quote Mr. Churchill, "the worm is in the apple," and even in the Piedmont we have noticed it. A good many years ago the so-called "Red" was a part of the oath to be taken by those voting in the Democratic primaries in South Carolina. That pledged the voter to support the nominees of the party both State and national, in the Democratic election.

The Navy Plays Hide-And-Seek With Senators

PLAYING hide-and-seek with the Senate continues to be one of Washington's favorite pastimes. Here is the story of one such game as told by GOP Senator Ferguson of Michigan.

The Mead Committee was investigating the U. S. Naval Base at San Juan, Puerto Rico. The place was immaculate. Every shoe was shined, every jeep polished, not a speck could be seen on a herring floor. The Senators were impressed.

At dinner that evening, Senators were entertained by gracious Capt. R. H. Baker, the commanding officer. Suddenly Senator Ferguson felt a mess boy slip something into his lap. The mess boy was an enlisted man and what he handed the Senator from Michigan were the special instructions issued by Captain Baker ordering the base to be prepared for the Senators' arrival.

Captain Baker had not missed a thing. He even ordered a rehearsal of entertainment ceremony for the Senators.

"There will be an officer stationed at the entrance of the main office building," read the order, "to conduct the party through the main office for inspection. This officer will be Lieutenant. Sampson who will take immediate steps to insure that the entrance to the building and the office area is thoroughly cleaned and shipshape. The chief clerk will assist in this."

"Captain of the office area is to issue orders immediately to clean up all areas of the yard and authority is hereby given to use any and all enlisted men and civilians in the amount necessary to accomplish this purpose."

"Uniforms for officers and men will be the working uniform. Officers are cautioned to wear clean khaki (grays may be worn if they are available). Enlisted men on duty will wear clean dungarees, blue shirts, and white socks. Black socks will be worn. Clean underwear will be worn."

"Inspection of the barracks will be made by Lieutenant Corcoran, who will serve advance notice that the place is to be immaculate at the time the committee will be served at 11:00 and all hands will eat at that hour in order to insure that the barracks and the kitchens and the barracks."

"The transportation officer will insure that motor vehicles of the yard to the end that they are washed and as presentable as possible. He will see that the commanding officer is cleaned no later than 11:00."

"A rehearsal of officers will be held on Monday. Here at which time all officers will assume their stations and will be further instructed by the commanding officer. Officers are requested to the end that a favorable impression of this activity is gained by the inspecting party."

Captain Baker would have made a great impression on the Mead Committee. If the enlisted man hadn't slipped the order of the day to Senator Ferguson's lap at the dinner table.

HIDE-AND-SEEK

Latest game of Senatorial hide-and-seek took place when the Mead Committee was surprised at the base at Greensboro, N. C., where, in order to give an impression of intense activity, G. I.'s were put to work on Sunday, their day off. Working on G. I.'s had been offered only a few days ago.

But the prize game of hide-and-seek occurred last Spring when, as the Mead Committee was en route to the base, they were surprised by the presence of the Mead Committee.

As a result, several aides to Secretary of War Stimson advised a culturo-matter came to the attention of the Mead Committee, when it discovered that the air corps had produced and shipped a large quantity of obsolete bombs to Europe, although Eisenhower had said they were not needed. So the committee called Brig. Gen. Kenneth S. Royall for a procurement program.

When General Royall returned to the War Department, he was carrying on a conversation themselves. Others wondered when he found time to read, because they

"What do you mean?" asked another officer. "Well, they only asked us about a type of bomb which they claimed was surplus. I convinced them from the records that there was no surplus of this type."

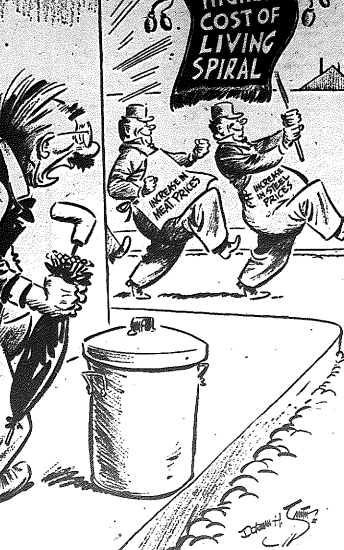
What had happened was that the Senators had asked about a bomb surplus of this type. They didn't think to ask about other types of bombs.

"Why didn't you tell them about the other kinds that we do have?" asked Royall's questioner. "They didn't ask us and why should we tell them? They're only looking for publicity anyhow."

General Royall was now acting secretary of war.

OLD OLD STORY

Senators did not know until months later that they just out on their periodic game of hide-and-seek. When they heard about it, one Senator remarked:



Obituary For Pete Murphy: "The Dangdest, Poorest Politician..."

By O. J. Coffin

(NOTE: When Walter (Pete) Murphy died in Salisbury Saturday after spending most of 72 years as a spectacular participant in North Carolina politics we started looking around for someone familiar enough with his long career to write the sort of memorial he deserved. His old friend, O. J. Coffin, head of the Department of Journalism at the University of North Carolina, was an obvious choice. The following excellent article verified our judgment.—Eds., The News)

OVERLY CURIOUS If he were a poor politician, he was even worse as a poker player. Murphy was a card shark. Murphy was a card shark. Murphy was a card shark.

CHAPEL HILL Sometimes known as "Bloody Mary," Murphy was a card shark. Murphy was a card shark. Murphy was a card shark.

THE BROAD VIEW Maybe he was too rugged an individual to attempt to instruct a team play. To be sure he always went in shoulder to shoulder with those at the Legislature in those who were presenting the cause of the University of North Carolina, but he did plunk off legislation—the statement has often been made and never, that he recalled, during his long career in his legislative terms, which included two speakerships, never introduced a local bill for his county of Rowan.

THE RACONTEUR He told a great story, usually dealing with the farcical but not unbecomingly humorous in public life. Many of whom, while they might acquit him of rancor, would not have credited him with ruth. (Mr. Editor, don't ask the linotype to put an opening t on that last word.) Here are some stories from a prodigious memory, but his most intimate friends wondered how such wealth of detail registered with him.

APPROPRIOS of this fact, we recall a close friend of Pete's having once said of him: "He's the dangdest, poorest politician in the state—never listened a whole hour to his own story."

HE must have been one of those rare people who can take in the whole picture and then, while carrying on a conversation themselves. Others wondered when he found time to read, because they

MARVELOUS TALE And if Pete did not listen to those who tried to tell him how to cut and dry politics, which he never was, he was equally unresponsive to the high sheriff as to the department and denouncing the Southern Railway for the quality of its service, or to give in toto a speech of Windy Bill Henderson.

THE CHALLENGE The public reaction to Murphy's last-minute change of the current generation, no doubt, is his declaration in 1924 that he did not vote for Al Smith to vote for me. The challenge resulted in Pete's defeat.

THE LONGEST-ADVERTISED public appearance of Murphy was at the funeral of a friend, a Negro, who was a member of the House of Representatives. Murphy, then fresh from Chapel Hill, attending his first legislative session, was asked to reply some statement of a colleague, he referred to him as "the member from the House of Representatives."

As a matter of fact, Pete Murphy was a Negro-baiter. He simply went his own way, which took him to the North Carolina College for Negroes to secure appropriations enabling its students to be given fellowships to study with those of white colleges.

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Bowles Now Fights Alone

WATCHING the struggle to settle the conflict over steel, you get the impression of a most comical circus now being played out, beyond the control of the human beings who are trying to curb them.

It is like watching a river in flood. The steel on the levees are working desperately, throwing up sand-bags as the water laps ever higher. One trouble with the battle to curb the concentration of the Washington levees are not entirely in agreement on the best way to proceed. OPA Administrator Chester Bowles is almost alone in his resistance to price increases.

But steel offers an even more interesting example of what is rapidly becoming a strange circus. For the most part, these weeks ago when Bowles met with the representatives of the 70 or more steel companies that do about 95 per cent of the nation's steel business.

SERIOUS DIFFICULTIES They were able to show that they faced serious difficulties in present steel prices. For the most part, these weeks ago when Bowles met with the representatives of the 70 or more steel companies that do about 95 per cent of the nation's steel business.

When it came down to a price increase for all steel products, however, Bowles insisted that \$2.50 a ton on the average was big enough. He argued that with a little show of teeth, the steel industry could get \$2.50 and give the steel workers a wage rate that would avert the strike.

But Bowles' Director John W. Snyder was not impressed by his arguments. At any rate Snyder felt it necessary to grant more than \$2.50 and at one point was apparently prepared to announce an increase before any bargain had been struck between the union and the companies.

A DISMAL RECORD

During the price increase negotiations, the steel companies showed Snyder advance figures covering operations for the last three months of 1945 which indicated a rather dismal record for the last quarter. This was used to buttress their argument for a larger price increase.

Philip Murphy, head of the steel workers' union, remained deliberately aloof from the price negotiations, taking the position that they were not his business. He insisted that he was kept thoroughly informed as to what was going on. Over the dismal showing of the steel companies for the last three months of 1945, he was kept thoroughly informed as to what was going on.

A generous price increase will give the big companies an edge over their smaller competitors. It will also tend to increase the power of the behemoths of steel. These forces grind on with what some to be an almost daily increase in the price of steel as one watches the struggle of frail human beings.

Inflation Is The Easy Way

WE have told each other monotonously that the price increase is the easy way. After the war was over, and, like many dull remarks, this one turns around and tells us that the price increase is the easy way. After the war was over, and, like many dull remarks, this one turns around and tells us that the price increase is the easy way.

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