WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 18, 1946

William Umstead Gets The Nod

THE speed with which Governor Cherry reached his decision to appoint William B. Unstead to the Senate leaves little doubt that the matter was cut and dried from the moment of Josiah Balley's dried from the moment of Josiah Balley's death. The Job was Mr. Untstead's if he wanted it, and the only question to be stitled was the wisdom of his stepping out of the gubernatorial race in which he was already an actic piacipant. Mr. The was already and actic piacipant, Mr. The was a state of the control organization men concerned apparently decided it was wise. Forthwith, Mr. Timstead, without reference to the voters of North Carolina, was handed the appointment.

of North Carolina, was inshoot are sp-plontment.
Well, Mr. Um at east is the Governor's choice, and the record indicates that he is qualified from the control of the control is qualified from the control of the control to a choice of the people of North Caro-lina? The answer to that question will have to wast until 1948 when the voters have their first opportunity to express an opinion.

have their first opportunity to express an opinion.

The legal right of the Governor to arbitrarily fill an elective job for two full Congressional terms — the length of service, let it be noted, of those unfortunate Representatives who have to obtain their his hard way is beyond the hard to be a strong the hard to be a strong to the suppointive method, presented to our open that in all the speculation over Senator Balley's successor it was assumed by one and all that the Governor would not choose the democratic alternatives.

tive open to him — the calling of a special election.

There will be no origanized protest, we are confident, against this latest evidence of government by back-stairs agreement in North Carolina. Unless we miss our guess this latest legal abridgement of the franchise will not even be noticed, except for the passing note taken of it here. The custom is ancient and honorable, and no-body these days raises his eyebrows when a governor pays off a personal political obligation with an appopulation of the state of the state

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Private Builders Have The Ball

DESPITE all the President's comforting word on the contrary, this nation is now in the midst of its greatest housing shortage without a housing program of any sort. A few warmed-over controls remain, but they are subject to the tender mercies of an agency whose stated function is decontrol. By and large, the Government has bowed out of the housing rield, turning over to private entarprise the stargering task of providing shelter for millions of homeless Americans, veterans and otherwise.

ans and otherwise.

This has, inevitably, brought about a sudden tempering of the broad promises the home builders and realtors were bandying about in the days when decentred was their goal. They have won their battle now, and it is always a solering experience to discover that with victory comes responsibility. Propagandists who have been proclaiming, "Give us a free hand and we will house the nation," are now tacking on a qualifying "... but not right away."

a qualifying "... but not right away."

The very nature of the housing abortage and its accompanying, and now unchecked, inflation makes it obvious that the little dream house is no closer now than it was when Wilson Wyatt struggled in vain against a reclustrant building industry and a refuctant Administration. One of the controls that has been removed is a \$10,-800 celling on houses, and the simple reason for its removal is than to builder can now build a house—any sort of house—for less than \$10,000. Under the operation of the law of supply and demand, which we now proudly hall, this means that something over 30 per cent of the citizens, and virtually all the veterans, are frozen out of the housing market.

There is recomition of this sad situa-

There is recognition of this and situa-tion in the fact that the building industry is now talking largely in terms of rental a busing. The veteran, it is pointed out, decen't really want to build a house, he wants to rent an apartment, and further-more he should not be allowed to build now because he's bound to get stuck if he does. This is not a new thought—Wilson Wyatt had it some months ago—but it's a

lation in the upper income brackets.

It must be conceded, of course, that in
the long run this them-as-has-gits method
of solving the housing shortage will confer certain benefits all down the line. When
a well-heeled tenant moves into a new
apartment he creates a vecancy in an
existing dwelling, etc. But how long, oh
Lord, how long will it be before the process
reaches the level of those ex-servicemen
who are now trying to raise a family in
a furnished room?

a furnished room?

We also wonder, in our usual skeptical fashion, just how much stimulus this new higher rein ceiling will provide for apartment construction. After all, if \$80 per apartment is necessary to guarantee a reasonable profit, how can a canny investor be sure that his income will stand up over the years? Apartment houses, as we understand it, are a long-term investment, and there has been a day, and there will probably be another, when anything above \$45 a month was in the luxury class.

a month was in the luxury class.

As we read it between the lines, the prevailing view among builders is that there will be no great boom in home or apartment construction — although there may be in industrial building — until construction prices level off. And this, of course, is a polite way of saying until the present inflated real estate market collapses, bringing with it great losses to desperate homeowners as well as to speculators, and very probably making a large dent in the general economy of the nation.

Wishing the building industry well and

Wishing the building industry well, and hoping for the best always, we are left with our tired old conclusion that, from any standpoint, this is the hard way to do

Another Turn In The Spiral

WHATEVER may be said of the ClO's current argument that wages can be raise of without a corresponding rates in prices (and frankly we can't say much), it now seems inevitable that the economy is about to be cranked up another turn on the inflationary spiral. All abor leaders—both ClO and AFL—are whooping it up for another across—the-board wage increase of at least 20 per cent, and the consequences will be as unasi.

of at reads 20 per cent, and the consequences will be as usual.

The effect on prices will vary in accordance with the variety of industrial cost accounting. In industries where labor cost accounting, in industries where labor cost accounting, in industries where labor accounts for a smaller proportion of cost, the price increase will be slight. But one thing leads to another, and higher wages for steel workers mean a higher price for automobiles just as certainly as do higher wages for automobile workers.

Industry's leaders are pointing out that labor can't win — that higher wages only mean higher prices and the net gain is nil. And labor leaders are countering with the claim that prices have climbed so that a wage increase is necessary simply to en-

shile workers to stay even with the game. This, of course, is on a level with the liecusion of which came first, the chicken or the egg. When controls went out the window new price demands were inevit-able, for the cost of living dig ou p alarm-mply. But the price of living went up, in part at least, in delayed response to last season's wage increases. And so on. There is something trout, and unner-me, in the speciacle of labor and indus-

try leaders pleading with each other to be reasonable. Reason, gentlemen? Don't you understand that this is the Season of the Great Killing, when every citizen of high and low degree is out to get his? It may also be remembered as The Sea-son of the Lemimings.

Speaking of chemical discoveries, it is our impression of pre-war sugar that it was 4,000 times sweeter than the stuff you can't get.

Having exchanged pledges with the G.O.P. to play ball, our Harry turns his attention again to the original dilemma: "Am I pitching or catching?"

Here it is, only '46, and never was the country more bountifully supplied with Presidential material, such as it is, Even the New Republic has a favorite son.

The trick is to pare the national debt, keep up the armed services and sharply reduce taxes. For this we may need two wands.

Receiving no reply from the Ailles to ils straightforward offer to help rebuild termany, Von Papen might dig up a letter f recommendation from his last employer

'How's That For Beating Him To The Punch?"



People's Platform

More On Grandfather

will continue to mark time until April 1, in order to permit you to determine the successfulness of your campaign.

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Goody-Good

Editors, The News:

A FTER reading the letter to your paper from B. A FTER reading the question of legal whisty, the only conclusion that I can come to is that he only conclusion that I can come to is that he people who drink a lot but are ashamed to let people see them buy it and would rather have the bootleger deliver it to their door and pay a double price for it.

GHARLOTTE

Marquis Childs

Income Tax Weapon

Harold Ickes

Autopsy On Canol

WASHINGTON
A CHECK is just the same size
no matter what you write on
it." said General Brehon Somervell
when he was summoned before the

INSISTED ON COMPLETION

Drew Pearson's: Row In Senate Holds Up Newspaper Probe

O'NE of the most useful investigations planned in the time-honored question, "seniority"—plus a certain amount. The Senate Band Bushness Committee, headed by molasses-moving Senator January of Montana, has carefully prepared some amazing data on the squeeze being put on small newspapers. The advance probe ranged from the some of which charge a newspaper wice for setting type. The probe also showed the territic mortality of smaller newspapers, and a scheme by should be the mation's barvettling.

is papers to corner most of the chain grocery store activation the Sensale Business Committee spent weeks this study, however, the November elections shown that the committee soon would have a new chaighten the committee soon would have a new chaighten. Whereupon millionaire Sensior Murray of Montaria, or the committee soon would have a new chaighten. Whereupon millionaire Sensior Murray of Montaria, or consideration of the Small Business Committee, the chairmanhip of the Small Business Committee of the committee of the state of the committee of the committee of the committee a few minutes before Wherry of Netrastanhip. However, Sensior George Williams of the committee a few minutes before Wherry of the committee. Actually, both men were elected to The since Committee. Actually, both men were elected to The case of Wilson, though Wilson became a member of the

that ambition.

Meanwhile, Senator Tatt of Ohio, who also has welllow idera about the Presidency in 1948, is none too ensituation about Wherry as a running mate. And Taft may
be something to say about who will chairman what com-

Mayor Kelly Collects

A-Bomb Secrets

DR. LEO SZHARD, one of the top scientists in the Manhattan district project, was discussing atomic energy with a group of officials in Washington the other day an told this story;

"The other day I met a scientist who did not won to the story of the bomb project," Sullard said. "He asked moone questions about the bomb. I countered by asking him—as a scientist who did not participate in the discovery of the bomb secrets—just how he thought the bomb was made fire outlined his own ideas. I checked in the jaboratory of the bomb secrets—just how he thought the bomb was made for outlined his own ideas. I checked in the jaboratory of the bomb was made for the discovery of the discov