THE CHARLOTTE NEWS

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WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 1946

How About The County?

"If harsh words have passed, justly or unjustly, perhaps they have served their purpose well," said Dr. M. B. Bethel, City Health Officer, in summing up a series of rapid developments on the abattoir front. "Both the Health Department and the abattoir operators will put forth special efforts in the future to maintain plants on an acceptable basis."

We can't improve on the Doctor's summary; it's neat and complete. The announcement by the new owners of Southern Meat Packing Company that they will spend $40,000 on improvement of their plant, and the opinion of State Health Inspectors that such an expenditure will accomplish the desired results, give promise of immediate improvement. The announcement that a new, modern $200,000 abattoir will be built on the Mount Holly Road guarantees adequate facilities for the future.

However, while the City is now pledged to maintain satisfactory sanitary standards, the County has yet to be heard from. The County Health Officer, of course, can't promise anything—there is no County ordinance to authorize inspection or to control the sale of uninspected meat. Even in the new or improved abattoirs farmers will still have an option of taking meat rejected by City Inspectors out into the County for sale. We're haunted by the statement Burke Davis overheard: "Don't bother to inspect that one, Doc, I'm going to sell it in the County."

The matter of County meat inspection has been brought to the attention of the Commissioners in the past, but has been rejected on the grounds that it is unworkable. Privately, some County politicians have expressed the opinion that the issue "is loaded with dynamite."

We have no doubt that the control of home killing on County farms would be a formidable task. But the establishment of sanitary standards at the abattoirs is certainly very much in order. As the City tightens its inspection procedure, residents of the County will become, more often than ever before, the recipients of meat declared unfit for consumption by City dwellers.

It seems to us the Commissioners would do well to take up the issue without delay, loaded with dynamite though it may be. An explosion now would probably be preferable to one in the primaries, now only a few months away.

View From A Pulpit

The outlook of a participant in a labor-management dispute is necessarily colored by his own direct interest in the outcome; both labor and management pose as champions of democratic principles but both are primarily concerned with an adjustment of wages, hours and working conditions; there is an obvious economic conflict between union and employer and one result has been a continuing, frequently bitter struggle over the division of industrial profits.

This is the starting point of a thoughtful address being delivered today before the National Management Association in Chicago. The speaker is Dr. George Heaton, pastor of Myers Park Baptist Church, and his theme is "The Common Goal of Management and Labor." His is not necessarily the viewpoint of the pulpit, but the dispassionate attitude of the uninvolved bystanders

It is Dr. Heaton's conviction that the heat of current industrial strife has produced little light. The layman, as he says, has been subjected to a great barrage of propaganda and counter-propaganda, and its net result is to convince him that two powerful groups are heading in opposite directions and pulling the country apart.

Yet, Dr. Heaton notes, the terms of the ideological conflict are being outlined by a handful of national leaders on either side. "The thing that is being created by this tendency for national spokesmen to speak for labor and for management is a collective bargaining that is removed from the local situation. To me, this is fundamentally unsound and economically disastrous. If we are going to effect sound human relationships in industry, they must be effected on the level of the local plant...."

It is here, in the direct relationship between worker and manager that the "common goal" can be defined. And, he warns, if this community of interest in the creation of a product, and in the sharing of the profits to be derived from its sale, disappears "then there can be no such thing as industrial peace." The only certain method of justifying the apparently irreconcilable differences between labor and management is "to refer ourselves back again and again to the ultimate goal of a profitable productive relationship with this proper blending of men, materials, and machines, with a minimum of waste, wear and weariness."

We must have the mood of anticipation, rather than second-guessing. Any honest reading of industrial history will reveal too plainly that the wise and permanent changes in the industrial process have, for the most part, come by the insistence of labor and government, rather than by the initiative of management. That is not as it should be, and I do not believe there is a man here who would have it continue that way . . ."

Dr. Heaton spoke in generalities, of course. But they were important generalities, far more pertinent than the surface irritations of labor-management conflict, considerably more to the point than the debate over the relative democracy of 58 cents an hour and 93 cents an hour. He did not attempt to address himself to the technicalities of labor relations and corporate profits, but he did outline the basic problem of our time. And he has reminded all of us that a Baptist preacher has as big a stake in its ultimate solution as any union member or board chairman.

Three Indefensible Strikes

The strike of 3,500 tugboat operators in New York has brought almost complete paralysis to the nation's largest city. Normal activities in Philadelphia have been halted by the strike of 9,000 transit workers. Public transportation is halted and the lights are going out in Pittsburgh, where 3,400 power company employees have walked off the job.

These strikes, of course, are indefensible. They are much more than an economic weapon employed by unions in fighting for a wage increase—they enforce an immediate penalty on upwards of 15,000,000 private citizens, who have no means of meeting the strikers' demands, or of fighting back.

The right to strike, like the right to make a fair profit, is inherent under our competitive system. However, it was found necessary many years ago to place certain specific limitations on those private enterprises legally classified as public utilities. For instance, we fix power rates by law, insist on the extension of service into specified areas regardless of potential profit, and establish public commissions to set and maintain minimum standards. In return we give the power companies specific benefits, primarily by guaranteeing them against competition.

The workers in any industry classified as a public utility should also be deprived of their fundamental right to strike. Here—and here, only— is there justification for compulsory arbitration, backed by a Governmental guarantee that the worker, in return for yielding his liberty, will always receive a fair return for his labor.

This is part of an urgently needed definition of labor's rights and privileges. The question involved is not the relative advantage to be gained by industry or by labor, but the common good, and there is a clear legal precedent in the restrictions long ago placed on power companies, railroads, and communication monopolies.

This definition cannot be established by men who have set out to break the union movement by a general abridgement of the right to strike, as have the proponents of the Case Bill. Nor can it be established by those who are bent on establishing organized labor as a dominant factor in our economic life. This is a job for impartial men dedicated to that almost forgotten ideal, the protection of the public interest.

From The Christian Science Monitor:

Prices On Old Houses

Amid the bombasts of pressure groups in Washington, the protests of the average citizen and returned veteran too often go unheeded. There is definite need for more vocal public support of Government efforts to curb real-estate inflation which are having hard sledding in the House Banking Committee. That Committee has rejected a provision in the Patman bill vigorously urged by President Truman, providing for price ceilings on old houses. The ceiling would be set at the price charged for the first sale after the legislation became effective. With many houses already selling at twice their former value, this seems more than fair to present owners.

Representative Patman also is asking for a $6,000 ceiling on new houses, in place of the present $10,000. His concern is rightly with veterans who are unable to afford higher-priced building. (A recent Army survey at separation centers showed only 16 per cent of the discharged veterans expect to be able to pay as much as $50 a month for housing.) But with present building costs a ceiling of $6,000 would seem more realistic.

Since only a small percentage of veterans will be in a position to build new homes, it is imperative that both rentals and sale prices of old houses be prevented from continuing their skyward flight. Prompt approval of the pricing provisions of the Patman bill will furnish the needed check.

Drew Pearson

Democrats Are Irked At Jim Farley's Trip

WASHINGTON

NEW YORK State Democrats are hoping mad at Jim Farley for "muscling in" on Cardinal-Designate Spellman's trip to Rome.

It's no secret that Farley is running like a jackrabbit for Governor of New York. He hopes to blow Sen. Jim Mead's Gubernatorial candidacy sky-high again this year just as he did in 1942, despite the fact that President Truman, Postmaster General Bob Hannegan, Sen. Wagner, and other top-flight Democratic politicians are supporting Mead.

Farley, however, hopes to upset the White House machine, win the Governorship himself, and name the Democratic candidate for President in '48, with himself as possible nominee for Vice-President.

Reason Farley's enemies are simmering is because the former Postmaster General has created the impression he was invited by Spellman to make the trip to Rome. The fact is that Farley asked to attend, thus putting the hierarchy on the spot. Farley isn't even traveling in the same plane with Spellman.

What has made the situation even more touchy is the fact that Mrs. Farley is accompanying her husband to Rome. Bess Farley, who so hated politics and FDR during the Roosevelt Administration, will be the only woman in the party. . . A fact that has created considerable eyebrow raising among Catholics and Democrats alike.

Note—If the Democratic Gubernatorial feud between Jim Farley and Jim Mead gets too hot, keep an eye on FDR's old friend, Wayne Johnson, as a compromise dark horse. He was one of the mainstays in electing Bill O'Dwyer as Mayor of New York.

HAWAIIAN STATEHOOD

Rep. Henry D. Larcade Jr. of Louisiana and other proponents of statehood for Hawaii found President Truman an enthusiastic ally when they called on him the other day.

"I declared myself very definitely for making Hawaii a state in my message (State of the Union) to Congress," Truman told his callers, "and I am still of that opinion."

He pointed out that the population, over 502,000, is greater than that of eight states already in the union, adding that with the island's vast resources and the inhabitants' proven ability to govern themselves, they are more than qualified to be admitted.

"Oklahoma and Arizona were brought in under the territorial status," Truman declared, "and have since been admitted as states. The only difference is that Hawaii is non-contiguous. But that argument doesn't hold water any more."

"The people of the islands are deeply grateful to you for your attitude, Mr. President," interposed GOP Delegate Joseph R. Farrington of Hawaii, who has the privilege of the House floor and can attend committee session but cannot vote. "It may interest you to know that more than 85 per cent of my people are native-born Americans—that is, they were born either in the United States or Hawaii."

Farrington recalled that in a 1940 plebiscite, the Hawaiian people had voted 2 to 1 in favor of statehood. The percentage would be much greater if a vote were taken today, he said.

"Well, I'm in favor of an increasing measure of self-Government for all our territories and insular possessions," Truman replied.

NO ALASKAN STATEHOOD

However, he sidestepped committing himself on the question of statehood for Alaska when Rep. Hugh Peterson of Georgia maneuvered the discussion in that direction. He indicated that Alaska needed more "developing," but that with proper transportation facilities its population and resources also could be built up to statehood standards.

Reps. George P. Miller of California and Homer D. Angell of Oregon, members of the Larcade subcommittee which recently visited Hawaii, told Truman about the natural resources of the islands.

"It has a heavenly climate," said Congressman Miller.

"That's a fine place then for an Angell," wise-cracked the President, looking at the Oregon Republican.

CAPITAL CHAFF

George Allen suspects Tommy Corcoran and Jesse Jones of leading the opposition to his RFC confirmation. Corcoran says Allen flatters him. . . . Democratic Congressman Antonio Fernandez of New Mexico and his wife are becoming stellar attractions at Washington parties. Mrs. Fernandez is supposed to have a better voice than singing Sen. Glenn Taylor of Idaho. . . . The Army could use more brass hats like Brig. Gen. Frederick Hopkins Jr. GI's serving in the Pacific say he was an outstanding commander who used all the transportation available to rush eligible men home, frequently sacrificing his own comfort to keep his men well-fed, well-clothed, and well-informed. . . . State Department strategy in pushing the loan to Britain through Congress includes assurances to recalcitrant legislators that they will not be asked later to okay a loan to Russia. . . . The recent strike siege has resulted in increased cashing in of war bonds. Ex-war workers now on the picket line have been forced to sell heavily. . . . During January, $541,240,000 worth of V-bonds were turned in. Only $640,000,000 were sold.

UNDER THE DOME

General Motors' strikers relief committee now has an impressive list of backers, including Publisher Henry Luce, Henry Wallace, Col. Robert R. Allen, and Harold Stassen.

"You're Telling Me, It's Hard To Get Anything!"

Frank Sullivan in PM:

The G. I.s And The Chiquita Sale

THIS is one of the sadder stories of the war, in a nice way. It happened in Alaska. In a bleak outpost of that lonely province, a few hundred Joes sat sweating it out, each one feeling like the forgotten soldier. The scenery mostly rocks, was nothing to gladden the eye. The food was about as rocky as the scenery. The mail arrivals were capricious, the entertainment was nil, and as for that fascinating institution, Woman, the Joes had not seen an American one in a year.

Came one day an announcement that sent the soldiers whooping into the air. They were to be visited and entertained by a lovely, glamorous lady from Hollywood, a delectable star who for refined and delicate reason shall be nameless here.

POLICE JOB

Well, sir, the boys dropped everything and started policing up the camp and in fact that entire corner of Alaska to make it worthy to receive the oncoming goddess. They swept and scrubbed and manicured Alaska and themselves. They redded up the place until it shone like Craig's Wife's kitchen.

Then they took counsel. Had they neglected anything? Was there by chance something else they could do to make the place comfortable for the divinity? It seemed not . . . Wait! Hold on a minute! Great Scott! A sudden, dreadful thought had struck the chairman of the reception committee. Struck him, fortunately, in time. In that strictly stag outpost there was not a sign of that feminine convenience known as a Powder Room!

A RUSH JOB

There was no time to lose. A committee was appointed to construct a Chiquita Sale in a hurry. The committee worked energetically and with imagination, helped by suggestions, necessarily rather academic, as to what the interior of a ladies' retreat looked like. As if by magic a rude but presentable structure appeared. It lacked the satin frills of a Stork Club bower, but its interior was made cheery and homey by decorations clipped from such magazines as the post afforded. A ramshackle mirror was commandeered and installed, for a final touch, on the door they tacked that refined and familiar legend, Ladies, a placard that had certainly never before graced that neck of the woods.

THE GODDESS DESCENDS

It was finished in the nick of time. The hour for Her arrival came. To a man, the camp gathered at the landing strip. After what seemed days of waiting, Her plane appeared from the clouds and zoomed to the field. The dainty lady stepped out, to the cheers of her adoring countrymen.

She was everything they had hoped for, and more. They feasted their eyes on her. Not only was she lovely, but she was gracious and sweet and friendly; in short, a good scout. She met the boys one by one, talked with them, charmed them, delighted them. She was better than a letter from home, or a steak dinner, and almost as lovely as a month's leave.

She ate at the mess and then she did her stuff for them; gave them her little routine of entertainment, and it was capital. She remained at that forlorn post, a tonic and a godsend to those troopers, for five hours.

Then she sailed away in her plane without once — remarkable woman — having asked if she might retire to the Powder Room; they had built for her with such loving care!

"I knew this would happen if the Government took over the meat industry—now everybody writes their Congressman about tough steaks!"

The People's Platform

The Abattoir Articles

CHARLOTTE

I would like very much to express my appreciation and commendation for the fine articles Mr. Burke Davis wrote regarding the meat butchering situation in and around Charlotte—a public service well rendered.

However, there is one thing about the articles I can't understand—the stand that Mr. Roach took regarding the unsanitary conditions at the abattoirs. He contends that if they followed the State sanitation laws the places would have to be closed, yet he admits the places are filthy and that the fly situation cannot be combatted, that there are no screens in the places, that flies are ground into the meat, that he wouldn't want to eat the meat handled there. If this man calls himself a sanitary inspector, help the man that eats this filthy, inspected meat. He directly admits that conditions there are out of the imagination of most humans, yet he tolerates them just so that meat can be slaughtered, with no regard for the safety of the people who eat this meat—and he is paid by the people to see that it is sanitary.

—John Thompson.

(NOTE: Dr. M. B. Bethel, head of the City Health Department and Mr. Roach's current superior, has stated that it was Department policy that permitted low standards to prevail in Charlotte's abattoirs; Mr. Roach was acting on orders of his superiors. However, the events which followed Mr. Davis's series of articles should cheer everybody concerned. We seem to be well on our way to cleaning up a bad situation.—Eds., THE NEWS).

Should We Abandon Mr. Breger Now?

PORT BRAGG

For your sake as well as your readers, I sincerely hope your contract to run "Mr. Breger" on the back page does not have too long yet to run. In my opinion, if the space were left blank it would be just as interesting.

Capt. Robert W. Huffer.

(NOTE: We've suffered with Mr Breger through induction, basic training, combat, occupation, discharge, and reconversion. Is there any point in staying with him longer? We'd like to know how many of our readers agree with Captain Huffer—but if we abandon him we promise not to leave the space blank.—Eds., THE NEWS.)

A Stirrer-upper Of Ill Will?

CHARLOTTE

So Mrs. J. D. Biggers is off on another vengeful volley of verbose verbs. Unless I am mistaken, she is quite the critic. I distinctly remember reading one of her acrid articles of about a month past, in which she ridiculed the most honorable Herbert Spaugh. Now she picks on Senator Clyde Hoey.

If Mrs. Biggers would snap out of the mendacious fog which surrounds her journalistic efforts, she could write something which produced a point. But instead, she bursts into wild array of accusations and false statements with no meaning whatsoever.

As far as the FEPC is concerned, "I'm agin it." But that is beside the point. There is no reason why our efficient Senator Hoey should be tried for treason, and such a statement is nothing short of an "ill-will stirrer-upper."

I do not quite understand what Mrs. B. means by saying that Senator Hoey should be "tried for treason against the constitution." Because the right to filibuster is one of our constitutional rights. But, oh well, every one to his own opinion. Nuf sed.

—Arthur Fay.

Could This Be the Source of Polio?

CHARLOTTE

Now that Burke Davis has discovered the source of the epidemics of Polio in this locality, I suggest the local "March of Dimes" offering be set aside as a contribution toward the construction of a new abattoir for the community.

—J. W. Skinnell.

Quote, Unquote

LIKE our veterans, your newspaper returns to peacetime living with the knowledge that the democratic way of what it represents is one of the most precious and most encouraging things in our world today.

—Shawnee, Okla., News-Star.

Marquis Childs

It's Easy To Blame Truman

WASHINGTON

THE reaction to the news of a grain shortage and a new threat of mass starvation in Europe and Asia has been received by some in the Government with an air of shocked surprise.

There is no reason for surprise. The facts have been fairly obvious for several months. Now we are face to face with the shameful reality that, in Great Britain, rations are being cut to levels even below the grim wartime diet while, here, we continue to go unrationed in the full tide of plenty.

Food allocated to be set aside for Europe has simply not been forthcoming. The top officials in UNRRA have known this. But they have apparently been too timid to speak out.

The responsibility for setting aside food for relief rests on the Department of Agriculture. At Agriculture, they blame the lack of transportation. They say that luxury goods are taking space badly needed for essential commodities.

The Agriculture Department cannot pass along all the blame. The fact is that too many officials in the department think in terms of the processors of food and their position rather than in terms of the producers and consumers.

ABNORMAL TIMES

Perhaps in normal times this does not matter too much. But these are not normal times and the task of setting aside food for relief calls for extraordinary and courageous effort which must, when necessary, override the entrenched interests of those who are bent on normalcy at any cost.

The root of the supply problem in this country is the way in which wartime controls were hastily removed after V-J Day. The pressure came from both inside and outside the Government to end all rationing. It was the easiest thing to do, the popular thing.

It is easy, too, to put all the blame for this on the man in the White House. He signed the orders that ended the disagreeable restrictions of wartime.

But that is not altogether fair to President Truman. There were many who were eager to play the politics of normalcy even before the sound of the guns had stopped. They began to turn on the heat; to persuade the public that continuance of controls was part of a New Deal plot to regiment the country.

REACTIONARY LINE

This line came from reactionary Republicans. It came from the National Association of Manufacturers. It even came from men such as Senator Taft of Ohio, who surely knew better.

The politics in this was crystal clear. If you could box the President in by making it seem that he wanted to retain restrictions after they were unnecessary, then you could make him unpopular and perhaps influence votes for '46 and '48.

This beautifully simple outlook ignored, of course, our responsibilities as a victor in the most devasting war in history. It's not too late to face up to those responsibilities, if only the President and the men around him will look at the facts.

Bertram Benedict

The Pay Scale For Governors

WASHINGTON

AN increase in the Governor's salary has been or will be considered in some of the dozen state legislatures in session this year. If the national Congress raises its salary scale this year or (more probably) next year, more state Governors will probably get a salary increase in 1947. A member of Congress may be taking his political life in his hand if he votes to increase his own salary, but a state Governor doesn't vote a salary boost for himself except by dint of approving a bill to that effect.

Only 20 of the 48 state Governors receive more than or as much as the $10,000 a year which has been the Congressional stipend since 1925. The comparison is really inexact because most Governors get the use of an executive mansion, with or without an allowance for upkeep. Members of Congress get no allowance for housing expenses in Washington but do receive other perquisites:—mileage at 20 cents a mile to and from each session—the franking privilege on mail connected with their duties—if they die in office, $10,000 to their widows, a money allowance for stationery and special delivery and air mail postage which sometimes isn't all spent for that purpose—free medical service. And some Senators and Representatives have members of their families on the payroll of their office staffs.

MEDIAN PAY $8,000

The median pay of the state Governors is $8,000. That is, the number who get more than $8,000 is about the same as the number who get less. The gubernatorial salary scales as a whole bear little relation to population. As might be expected, New York pays the highest amount, $25,000, in addition to use of a Governor's Mansion and certain expenses for its upkeep. Governor Edge of New Jersey, which ranks ninth in population, may get more, net. Edge receives a salary of $20,000, use of a Governor's mansion, a separate Summer residence at the seashore, and $15,000 for expenses.

Nevada, ranking last in population, pays the fourth highest Governor's salary. Michigan, ranking seventh in population, pays the fifth lowest. California, 5th in population, pays no more than Arizona, 44th in population. The gubernatorial salaries are as follows:

THE PAY SCALE

$25,000—New York*.
$20,000—New Jersey*.
$18,000—Pennsylvania*.
$14,000—Nevada*.
$12,000—Connecticut, Illinois, Indiana*, Louisiana*, Texas*.
$10,500—North Carolina*.
$10,000—Arizona, California*, Colorado, Kentucky*, Massachusetts, Missouri*, Ohio*, Virginia*, West Virginia, Wisconsin*.
$9,000—Florida.
$8,000—Rhode Island, Wyoming*.
$7,500—Delaware*, Georgia, Idaho, Iowa, Mississippi*, Montana*, Nebraska*, Oregon, South Carolina*.
$7,000—Minnesota*.
$6,500—Oklahoma*.
$6,000—Alabama*, Arkansas*, North Dakota*, Utah*, Washington*.
$5,000—Kansas*, Maine*, Michigan*, New Hampshire, New Mexico*, Vermont.
$4,500—Maryland*.
$4,000—Tennessee*.
$3,000—South Dakota*.

*Plus use of a Governor's Mansion and/or expenses for upkeep or other incidentals or housing.