

Pity The Homeless Progressives

WE can think of no political event more likely to have less immediate effect in North Carolina than the decision of the Wisconsin Progressives to return to the Republican fold after twelve years of independence. Still, the admission by Young Bob La Follette that there is little future for the Progressives, alone in the affiliate of the Democrats, prompted though it may have been by local considerations, is an important straw in the national wind.

When the Progressives departed from the G.O.P. camp twelve years ago they did so because it appeared that the Progressive Republican Party was certain to founder in the liberal currents then running in America. The New Deal was young and vigorous, and the once-moribund Democratic Party, newly equipped with a positive economic and social program, had had an astounding revival. It was a political expediency, a Republican Wisconsin in the state he will now Democratic since 1882) to adopt the Democratic label, but it seemed the clear duty of any politician who professed liberal principles to climb aboard the New Deal bandwagon. (It might be noted in passing that the decision of the Progressives to join the Democrats was an act of political honesty that might well be emulated today by the disaffected Democrats of the South.)

The Commission Wasn't Set Back

WHEN Charlotte's new Zoning Commission held its initial meeting a couple of weeks ago, we wrote a gloomy little editorial noting that an atmosphere of defeat seemed to hang over the proceedings. Several of the members had been quoted as wondering if it would really be possible to pass a set-back law banning buildings closer than 25 feet to the center of downtown streets, and we concluded that the errors of the past were spilling over into the future.

This is heartening indeed, for despite all the arguments that can be brought against widening downtown streets (the principal one, of course, is expense) it is clear that the job eventually will have to be done if we are to solve our worsening traffic problem. If new structures are allowed to go up along present building lines in the period of construction now beginning the chance of eventually opening up through streets will become that much more remote.

The Glass House We Live In

IT is becoming an established custom for visiting jurists, arriving in Mecklenburg to preside over Superior Court, to publicly express horror over the state and extent of the criminal docket. Judge Luther Hamilton is the latest; he, like a good many of his predecessors, opened a court session last week by remarking upon the contrast between the County's reputation for piety and its astounding crime rate.

Yet these blasts are printed by the newspapers under rather large headlines, and they are presumably read by as many Mecklenburgers as, say, the reports on bank clearings and postal receipts which prove our prosperity. But we have never been asked to soft-pedal them by a committee of Bonapartes willing to edit the truth of the allegations but convinced that it's better not to discuss our shortcomings in public.

Another Voice

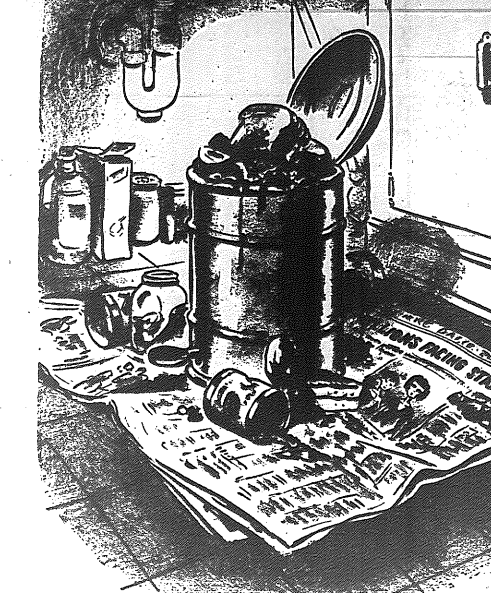
Nothing can be done about the betrayal of Democratic policy and prestige by those who are in the party in Congress, at least the brand of politically illicit relationship may be applied to them. And this is what Robert E. Hannegan proceeds to do.

Are we no longer concerned over the strange spectacle we present to the outside world? Have we broken so many names in our glass house we no longer care what the neighbors think? Are we even becoming perversely proud of our reputation for lawlessness and violence?

In The Course Of Reaction

Nothing can be done about the betrayal of Democratic policy and prestige by those who are in the party in Congress, at least the brand of politically illicit relationship may be applied to them. And this is what Robert E. Hannegan proceeds to do.

Thus, they drive on in the course of reaction, on the one hand devising better standards to the wage-earning masses of their region; on the other, furiously fighting to inflate the profits of the dominant vested interest of the South.



People's Platform

The Redcoats Are Coming

TWO years ago I sent the enclosed copy to another newspaper and they failed to publish it. I feel it is rather a proper time to ask for its publication.

CHARLOTTE, N. C., March 24, 1944.

Diplomacy is an "art" and "art" is the application of skill to bring about successfully some determined result. A statesman is one skilled in the art of government and public affairs. A politician is a fertilizer to promote the growth of a political party, and as such, is surrounded with the same sort of an odor, as the fertilizer. As Disraeli said "In politics nothing is contemptible," and the more contemptible are the materials which the politicians can inject into his efforts, the more successfully he is rated as a true politician and a perfect dealer from the bottom of a marked deck.

ON March 25th, Greek Independence Day will be celebrated again. Calvary, the birthplace of the Modern Greek State, where, on March 25, 1821, the Greek revolution broke out against the Ottoman Empire, is a day which the Greek citizens view as a day of national pride and honor.

And let us not fail to remember the "crime of 1876" in which England forced the United States to give up the control of the gold market, and now she is again trying to shift the silver standard on to the world for her own special reasons, and the Alabama claims are not so old, nor is the English corner on rubber, following the close of World War I, and east your eyes over the red ink entries of our financial books.

It is the one truth every one has to face. If any one says he loves his country and does not follow the price schedule as announced by the Federal Reserve Board, he is a traitor to his country.

Drew Pearson's Ireland Favors U. S. Loan To Britain

WHEN Former Congressman Joseph E. Casey of Massachusetts, now a TWA executive, was in Ireland recently to attend the memorial services for the late Cardinal John Gorman of St. Louis, he had several discussions with Prime Minister Eamon De Valera and Sean O'Kelly, President of the Irish Free State.

Auto Price Boost

CINCINNATI, Kentucky—Fred Paul Porter expected no bed of roses when he became boss man of the Office of Price Administration. He hasn't been disillusioned. However, he didn't bargain for some verbal fireworks from liberal Congressmen.

A Stitch In Time

WASHINGTON The declaration by Prime Minister Attlee granting independence to India is a stroke of good fortune for the British Empire. It might have been too late.

Johnston's report was suppressed. So was that of the career diplomat who succeeded him, William Phillips. The British refused to credit London with any official capacity.

EXTREMISTS' OPPORTUNITY If a minimum of grain is not made available, the political independence may not be enough to prevent widespread famine.

ONE MAN'S LIFETIME The change has occurred in the lifetime of the stout, ruddy-faced visitor who has been America's guest in the past few months.

MANY DISILLUSIONS Politically conscious leaders in India feel they have had many disappointments since the war.

going to turn up now. Perhaps one day the front. Shipments of grain has become a kind of Walling Wall, to which pressure groups come for relief which they seem to be unable to obtain in formal administrative proceedings.

Samuel Graiton

Torture Of The OPA

WASHINGTON THE Office of Price Administration is being run in a manner which is a kind of refined torture at the hands of Congress.

Public Liked It Since the public, for some reason, seems to like price control very much, and to insist on its renewal, the best remaining approach left to its opponents is to meet and follow the general line and price control amendments are sprouting all over Washington.

Antidote For Anger

I READ some time ago E. J. Wade's article of the "Veterans' anger and the whispering on the streets of civilian."

Officials Kept Busy Then, too, since New Year's Day, the OPA officials have been called to testify before no less than sixteen Congressional committees.

Affects All Reconstruction

It is fairness to him, however, to say that the formula will affect not only the auto industry, but all reconstruction industries. It is based chiefly on pay increases to labor.

What can I say to my farmer constituents, who have been demanding higher prices for what they raise, if farm price increases are allowed? demanded young Congressman Gore.