Housing Priorities Aren't Enough

white shirts, golf balls—these things are pecessary, of course, but delay in their production will not spell tragedy, as the delay in providing shelter for the homeless al-ready has.

ready has.

The Government, moving belatedly to channel the nation's entire construction effort into the building of low- and medium-cost homes, is following the only course open to it. It may be that existing Federal restrictions have prevented the building industry from voluntarily meeting its clear obligation in the housing field, but, at this reading, that argument is largely academic. The hard fact is that private builders have failed to produce those in any appreciable quantity on their own initiative, but they have managed to build a good many commercial structures essoite the shortage of labor and materials.

Many factors have worked to create this

Many factors have worked to create this condition, and there is little point in name-calline and fineer-polnting at this late date. We are piecsed to note that an informal survey of Charlotte builders this week turned up only one all-out critic of the Government's plan to give first priority to housing. There were many who regarded the project, and its accompanying tangle of red tane, as distasteful, but there were few who questioned the necessity for it.

However, the system of priorities, no matter how well enforced it may be, cannot produce the millions of new dwellings we must have. There is another hard fact yet to be faced—inflation aiready exists in the building field. Building costs have risen (and again, it doesn't particularly matter whose fault it was) until it is no longer possible to build an adequate

The number one domestic problem in house for \$5,000 or less, which is the price there are the contraction of several million meet. In time competition will force housing units. Automobiles, refrigerators. the most sanguine private builder foresees any marked reduction for many months to come. How, then, are the millions of veterans, who are everybody's first concern, to purchase houses at going prices even after material and labor are made available?

The Administration's answer is Federal subsidies, designed to take up the slack between the normal value of the house to be built and today's inflated building costs. It's an imperfect solution, of course, but there is every reason to believe it would accomplish the essential result.

The House of Representatives rejected the subsidy plan without offering an alternative of any sort. It agreed to the basic premise of the Housing Bill, that there is an emercency in housing sufficient to justify temporary Federal regulation of private building, but removed the machinery that would make such regulation possible. The Senate will doubtless restore subsidies, and perhans the estore subsidies, and perhaps the will recant-but in the meantime home construction remains at a stand-stil while the total of homeless climbs at a frightening rate.

From the beginning there has been a rendency on the part of everyone concerned—private builders and the Government—to treat the housing shortage as hough it were some minor, temporary We have rarely indulged in a more costly pipe dream. We shall not begin to make progress at solving the monu-mental housing problem until we recog-nize it for what it is—an acute domestic emergency as grave as any we have faced in all our history.

It's An Old, Familiar Pattern

A MERICA is a big country, with room for many diverse opinions, and it was inevitable that somebody would appear sooner or later to defend Francisco Franco against the State Department's recent attack. It is disturbing but not surprising, to find the Spanish dictator upheld in Columbia, the monthly publication of The Knights of Columbus, which carries on its masthead the line: "The Largest Catholic Magazine in the World."

To John Donahue, Columbia's editor, the To John Donahue, Columbia's editor, the State Department's detailed exposition of Franco's long filtration, and sometime active collaboration with Hiller and Mussolini, is nothing more than "an attempt to smear a small nation that is a threat to me one and wants to be left to work to smear a small nation that is a threat to no one and wants to be left to work out its problems in peace." To Mr. Donahue, Franco, the very model of a fascist dictator, remains a sort of hero because in 1936 he ended "the reign of terror" of the Spanish Popular Front with a terror of his own, which still continues.

The Popular Front was leftist, and ac-The Fopular Front was leftist, and actively supported in the Civil War by Communist Russia. This, we gather, outwelpts the fact that Franco was rather more effectively supported by the Germans and Italians, who bragged openly that they were using Spain as a provine ground for their new weapons. The fact that Spain did not actively oppose American landings in French North Africa, and later (after Allied success was certain) made certain minor diplomatic concessions to America and Britain is enouch, in Mr. Donshue's view, to "demolish" the State Department's case against Franco.

The Columbia editorial purports to be an examination of the facts. But in all the

black record of the Felange, the editor can find nothing against the little dictator except that "Franco, with a gun at his head, spoke softly to the Nazis..." The horrors of the Spanish Civil War, which enabled Franco to u surp the political powers he still holds today? To Mr. Donahue that was merely "a bloody rough-and-tumble (in which) he crushed the Communist bid to take over Spain." The Spanish divisions that fought as units of the Germany army on the eastern front? The Spanish submarine bases used by Germany and Italy during the critical Battle of the Mediterranean? Franco's public profession of faith in the Nazi Ideology after which he modeled his own? These facts were apparently not considered important enough to be included in Columbia's summary.

None of this would matter particularly

bla's summary.

None of this would matter particularly if it did not involve the repetition of a painfully familiar pattern. The Catholic church hates and fears Communism, with good cause, and in the years when World War II was in the making this blind fear led the Vattean into active support of Fascist governments. The bloody lessons of the last six years should have proved beyond debate that this was trading evil for evil, but here is the largest Catholic magazine in the world presenting "Uncle Market of a dictator who happens also to be a Catholic. Fighting Communism is one thing; embracing a Fascist because a few of his victims happened to be Communist is quite another.

If Columbia reflects popular, or official.

If Columbia reflects popular, or official, Church opinion, we can only conclude that the blood of a good many hundred thou-sand Catholics has recently been shed in vain.

The Law And The Color Line

TUDGE LUTHER HAMILTON is a spade-TUDGE LUTHER HAMILTON is a spade-caller. He began his term of, Superior Court here, as is the usual custom, by remarking upon Mecklenburg's reputation for publicly condenning alcohol and privately consuming it, and expressed the opinion that the county is about as sinful as any, ABC or probition, he has visited in the course of his judicial career.

That, of course, was largely conversation, but yesterday Judge Hamilton, faced with "one of the most shocking" cases he has ever heard, took equally forthright judicial action. He ordered the maximum sentence action. He ordered the maximum sentence for a white man charged with attempting to rape a 10-year-old Negro girl.

There was a local of guilty, and a further plea for lenlency on the ground that the accessed had only a fourth grade education. There is no doubt in my mind. Sudge, "that this man knew right from wrong, and he knew it was wrong to molest this child of tender age . ."

There had been no suggestion that the color of the victim and the accused had any bearing on the case, but Judge Hamilton went on to point out at some length that the law, as the guardian of the citizenty, is no respector of the color line. To the defendant he said, "Society will not telerate such behavior; your sentence, should stand as a warning to the community that the law deals sternly and impartially with such offenses."

It's a warning we're glad to repeat. The theory, now accepted by almost all Southern whites, that men are equal before the law regardless of color or creed, is too often abused by lenient judges. Judge Hamilton, handing down the maximum sentence allowed bim under the law and going out of his way to express his horror at the nature of the crime, has rather dramatically put the theory to practice.

It is by no means certain that the G. I. on a foreign strand would be happier here. Thanks to the housing scarcity, it now is possible to be homesick at home.

A critic of the comic magazine as a steady diet feels that it arrests the mental maturity of our young. The boy of today, he greatly fears, is the boy of tomorrow.

It is odd that Mr. Ickes should be "confused," since it seems perfectly apparent Mr. Pauley never said what he said—or, anyway, didn't mean what he meant.

It was a famous victory for Bowles; the one-man backfield against inflation. With the coach's kind permission, battered Chester will continue to carry the ball.



No. Boy-No

The Implication Was Unfair

THE result of the referendum on whether or not a Rockingham County, N. C., would agithorize ABC liquor stores to be established in her borders surely must have been a bitter pill for Burke Davis to guip down. The writer has watched the unusual campaign conducted through the column of Tax Naws, especially Davis' arguments. Tax Naws through its editorial as well as its reportorial staffs has a perfect right to advocate that form of ac-salled ilquor control, but I advocate that form of ac-salled ilquor control, but I the result of this campaign.

the result of this campaign.

It is absolutely ridiculous to state that six thousand six hundred and twenty voters of Rockingham County voted to continue bootlegging in their county and his slurs at the Christian ministry of the county is, to be mild in stating it, unpardonable.

-J. E. McLAUGHLIN.

—J. E. McLAUGHLIN.

J. AM amazed at the blased news reporting of Burke Davis. If ever the lupor interests had a faithful friend it is Burke Davis. In giving the results of the Rockingham referendum on ABC stores, he still taints his news report with his own avowed wet convictions. He says: "Roused by a heli-life and brinstone cambridge and the still and the says and

(NOTE: We trust Mr. Kleer will forgive us for climbing the fence to make an apology. The choice of words in the opening paragraph of Mr. Davis article was unfortunete. He did not intend, nor do see that the constitution of the control of the control of the community. Such an implication is as unfortuneted, and appeared that community. Such an implication is as unfounded, and as patently unfair, as the inference that we, who favor ABC, as a measure of control, are closely of the liquor intereste.—Eds., Thus News, are

A Baptist Hierarchy?

A Baptist Hierarchy?

CHARLOTTE

I, was reading tonight's paper in which the Oathslic Church again came in few cetteries to minds
ending with your comment. It personally can not see
why you think that it is a violation of the traditional separation of church and state for the U. S. to
maintain diplomatic representatives ig the Vatican.

In our foreign policy, we frequently have to deal
though our constitution provides that we shall have
a republic. If one concedes to the Catholic Church
and to the Pope in the Vatican any temporal power? Or

er, then why not treat it as a temporal power? Or

er, then why not treat it as a temporal power,

er, then why not read it as a temporal power.

I give a support of the section of the voters in

1928 with Al Smith would lead us to believe that

the voters, at least, believe the Vatican to be a temporal power.

The temporal power is the temporal power to the temporal power.

The temporal very the tem that some of the people under the "control" of the Vatican are in this country, but so are Communists, and we deal with Stalini But it is the hierarchy of the Catholic Church, that is condemned by the Baptists as they this but is the stall the stall the condemned by the Baptists as they the theory when the stall the power that bet Pardon me for slamming the Baptists your religion, I believe, but in that they are alightly hypocritical? Not entirely, but, to consider the power that bet Pardon me for slamming the Baptists your religion, I believe, but in that they are alightly hypocritical? Not entirely, but, to consider be of a ETU for some eight months, and while that may not be enough to give me the facts, is, did you me this picture. There is a standard program, with the discussion in the middle. Programs are need not study to the program, here always did! I, and some others in the group, felt that if the program were modified so as to provide more time for discussion, it would be more helpful to us all, But or by some of the others, the director always answered that to change would keep it from being a "Standard" Union! To my naive look, that appeared to be a hierarchy of sorts. Not too different My own religion; raised as an Episcopialia, nince them, member at different times of Methodis, Preserved that to change would keep it from being a "Standard" Union! To my naive look, that appeared to be a hierarchy of sorts. Not too different My own religion; raised as an Episcopialia, nince them, member at different times of Methodis, Preserved the supplier of th

Up Tommy Atkins

JUST a little space in your paper in answer to Mr. Maguire of March 20.

CHARLOTTE

JUST a little space in your paper in answer to Mr. Maguire of March 20.

It is a fine time to be calling names now when everybody else is doing the same to England after she fought ever so long by herself and held her ground while Ireland looked on and laughed and support of the second of the se

The People's Platform is available to any reader who cares to mount it. Communications should be less than 300 words, typewritten if possible, and on only one side of the paper. Libel and obsecutify will be deleted-otherwise anything goes. Each letter must be signed, although, in exceptional cases and upon request, we will withhold the writer's name.—Editors, Tus Naws.

Truman-Navy Feud

WEEN President Truman and a similals who rim the something very like a head ag on over unification of the services. If is an extra-ry speciacle, this tug-of-war

is going on over unification of the armed exercise. It is an attracoffinary speciacie, this important of the control of the

WANTED LOYALTY

the first place, he wanted tone in the Navy Department would be absolutely loyal to Pauley, the President be-d, would be able to resist the dishments and the persuasions

lieved, would be able to resist the behandshments and the persuasions of the admirals. Secondly, the President believed that Fauley would have the ruth-cleamers, the drive and the common spite of the opposition of the opposition to Moscow. On this point, the President had the hearty support of the opposition to Moscow. On this point, the President had the hearty support of the president had the president of the presi

'ADMIRAL' VINSON

They have, of course, very im-portant allies. One is Rep. Carl

CHIEF'S FIGURE

The last figure reptotal the Commanderleved adequate to a
Navy at a proper per
This computation we
the relationship

Samuel Grafton

Great What-Is-It

OBJECTION has been made to one of these dispatches, in which it was declared that the Security Council is a kind of parliament. My correspondent says liament: it is really a kind of continuous international conference. The answer perhaps is that the Security Council is not "really" as continuous international conference. The answer perhaps is that the Security Council is not "really" us, or recognitable: it is a hybrid with many of the elements of novelty and perhaps some of the hybridity.

The Council in several ways admittedly resemble a mere continued on the continued of the council in several ways admittedly resemble a mere continued.

hybridity.

The Council in several ways admittedly resembles a mere conference. The veto power, for exercise, the veto power, for exercise, and the property of the property o

an unshorn House of Lords, or a consortium of Frest nations.
CURIOUS COURT

And if the Security Council is really a court, it is a curtous court, for it is a court the members of which are not sworn, and are rather expected to be. And if it is a court, it is a court which is not bound by the rules of evidence of the council of the cou

NEW YORK DOUBLE ANSWER

DOUBLE ANSWER

Perhaps we need a double answer to the question of whether were to the question of whether the perhaps and the perhaps and the perhaps and the answer might be that american opinion would like to see in the direction of beings a parlisment (or court) while Russian opinion would like to see the council become and remain a conflict of the perhaps also because of our comfort and the perhaps also because of the new agency, as a thing in itself, and addition to the furniture of the world; while the Russians have be brought against any of the great powers, and the provided the perhaps and the pe

PATIENCE NEEDED

PATIENCE NEEDED

And the Council needs the help
And the Council needs of
makings men, who instead of
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makings men, who instead of
makings including the veto power,
will help it through its difficult
process of becoming. The great
it provides a safety valve for the
release of pressures as the Council
slowly works its way along toward
institutional form; it is like keeps,
which men are trying to learn to
be friends.
The Issue of what the Council
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Drew Pearson's • Truman May Defer Farm Labor From Draft Merry-Go-Round • Truman May Defer Farm Labor From Draft

STORY behind the recent White House visit of GOP Representative William Lemke of North Dakota is that President Truman may liberalize the drafting of farmers in order to aid the humper harvest so vitally needed this year.

order to aid the bumper harvest so vitally needed this year. The North Dakota Congressman told Truman that many farms in the Northwest are critically short-handed due to the property of the property of the terms of the terms of the terms of the terms who have served in the armed forces are not returning to the farm. They are taking fancher jobs in the clittle instead. In some cases, the young brothers are being inducted, though sorely needed on the farm. They are taking and the property of the property of

and Lemme.
"I don't think anyone should be deferred at the expense
of men now in the Army who are entitled to get out,"
coninued Lemme. "However," believe the Army could conbetween 200,000 and 300,000 non-essential men who are able
effect." "Who have gen deferred because of some physical
effect." Truman said he was inclined to agree and that he med to so over the whole draft situation soon again with

Atom Test
Tatime bomb test, and this was the one which finally
controlled-namely, the impossibility of measuring the underwater atomic explosion until a machine is perfected.
At the last Cabine meeting, however, President Truman
brought up an additionation and Congressmen who wanted
to witness the sets in mid-Pacelite.
This, however, was no problem for Postmaster General
Bob Hannegan.
"If you'll let me pick them," he said, "it might be an
excellent thing to hold the test at this time."

Vets Go Bare-Back

IF you are puzzled as to why returned veterans can't buy
ruits, the confidential Government figures on woolen and
worsted goods will give you the answer.
Briefly, it boils down to the fact that more woolens and

prices, so the poor veteran is cents act; out in the cold.

If you don't believe it, look at the figures. During the last quarter of 1946, the production of woolens and worsteds abot up 13 per cent over the previous quarter, and 31 per cent over the 1939 average. In other words, we were making more woolens at the end of 1945 than before the war started,

more woolens at the ent of 1845 than before the war natical. However, here is the pay-orf. Duting the same closing months of 1845, 20,000,000 additional yards of woolens and worsteds went into women's clothing. The amount used for men's clothing did not increase at all.

This 20,000 additional yards of woolens was enough This 20,000 additional yards of woolens was enough the control of the con