TODAY Charlotte's meat packers are scheduled to begin a strike against the OPA that will, by next Monday, leave the town's table's virtually bare of beef. veal and pork. They will close their doors with the full support of the retail grocers they supply, and presumably of a large segment of the public.

The complaint of the packers is involved. The complaint of the packers is involved, but it boils down to their claim that they can no longer make a profit under existing OFA ceilings and Federal subsidy regulations. They further insist that this condition has prevailed for many months, forcing their customers into the black market. The Charlotte Retail Groers Association backs the packers' claims, confessing that its members have "had to kick in one way or the other" to obtain meat supplies.

Accepting the packers' case in its entirety—which we do only tentatively, since there has as yet been no official answer from the OPA—it stands as a mighty argument for the removal of all price congument for the removal of all price con-trols. Black market or no meat prices in Charlotte have remained fairly reasonable, and for this the OPA deserves some credit. But if meat disappears from the tables of the town the price line, no matter how firmly held, becomes an evil, not a blessing. Eventually the OPA will, unless it decides to make a test case here, have no choice but to bend the line to meet the packers' demands. The packers' strike, justified of unjustified, will then achieve its stated end, and establish a spiraling pattern for the future.

THE principle of price control, which we have frequently defended here, is sound, but no principle can long survive It have frequently defended here, is sound, but no principle can long survive the weaknesses of its practical application. Inevitably, OPA has been an inflexible instrument, and, indeed, inflexibility was a vittue so long as other wartime controls—on production, wages, and manpowerwere in effect. But the end of the war brought the removal of these controls, and, perhaps even more important, the end of the moral (or patriotic) pressure that led producers, distributors, and the public in general to obey Federal regulations even when they involved inconvenience and occasional financial sacrifice. That moral pressure has vanished now: witness the public confession of "many" Charlotte grocers that they have been dealing in the black market for months, a confession that would have evoked a great public outly during the war years and passes now without remark.

The OPA Argument Comes Home The wast complexity of the national economy, freed of Federal controls except for the OPA's bulging celling, is exerting an upward pressure that no single, understaffed agency can hope to check. Moreover, the widespread public support for OPA, (upon which it places its reliance) is largely lip-service, predicated upon the impossible proposition that the Government should control the prices of the things we buy without interfering with the price of the things we sell.

There are young man involved in the effective of the control of the contr

There are venal men involved in the effort to destroy the OPA, but they are a minority. Many a businessman, convinced of the need for price control, is also convinced of the futility of the present effort. In increasing numbers they join the chorus of protest, and add to the pressure that blows holes in the OPA ceiling. The effect, of course, is cumulative—the more holes the greater the futility.

VET our hope of avolding ruinous infla-tion still rests with OPA, imperfect instrument that it is If Chester Bowles, Paul Porter and their assistants can hold their ragged ceiling together, even though it is raised again and again, they may yet insure a gradual rise in prices until the great volume of goods now in production is turned loose, and the old laws of supply and demand take hold again.

The great danger is that the general The great danger is that the general public, acting in angrea and disguest, will insist, as the venal have insisted from the beginning, that the entire structure of price control must be razed at once. We do not have to depend upon hazy visions of the future to determine the result of that course; we can look to our past, within our own memory. Price controls came off in 1919, when there were similar, although less severe, inflationary pressures. Here's the record for 1920: 311 billion loss in inventories, profits of 36 billion in 1919 reduced to a loss of \$500 million, a 50 per cent drop in farm prices. a 55 per cent drop in party pressures. Here's the record for 1920: 320,000 farm foreclosures, 166,000 bankruptices.

It would be well to remember, in the It would be well to remember, in the meatless days to come, that maintenance of price controls is a mighty and complex issue. It cannot be decided in terms of the disagreement between Charlotte's meat-packers and the OPA, regardless of where justice lies in that dispute; more than ever, as the saving factor of full production comes nearer, it is important to fight the tendency to trade the evil of OPA's inequities for the far greater evil of runaway inflation.

The Republicans Look To 1948

JORTH CAROLINA Republicans have concluded their largest and lustiest state convention in some years, and hope is burgeoning in GOP bosoms today. Our political minority, which hasn't had a real inning since the spurious issues of rum and Romanism split the Democrats back in the Al Smith campaign, doesn't have much chance of upsetting any applecarts in the coming Congressional elections. and the eyes of the GOP brethren are fixed on '48.

fixed on '48.

Their primary business in Winston, we gather, was to look over one of the leading Republican presidential prospects—Harold Stassen of Minnesota. They were bound to be impressed by Mr. Stassen's intelligence, forthrightness, and obvious vote-getting ability. But politicians, when they size up a standard-bearer, look beyond these attributes: such matters as party requirely, dependability, and attention to the amenities of patronage also weigh heavily.

The fact that Mr. Storen was invited.

amenities of patronage also were incavily.

The fact that Mr. Stassen was invited to Winston-Salem certainly gives him an excellent chance of obtaining the North Carolina delecation's vote at the National GOP Convention in '48. But it is by no means a clincher, for just last week the Worth Carolinians on the Party's executive committee went down the line for Republican Chalirman Reece, whose election br. Stassen regarded as a slap in the face.

It would be foolish to assume that North Carolina's Republicans, in listening attentively to Mr. Stassen and applauding in the right places, were thereby aligning themselves with the liberal wing of the Party. They may do so, but their course, according to the eternal laws of practical politics, will finally be determined by expediency.

But, it seems to us at this early reading, But, it seems to us at this early reading, that there is an excellent chance that expediency may finally dictate the nomination of Mr. Stassen. Of all the Republican hopefuls he alone has a real chance of capturing the great bloc of liberal, non-party-line votes that gave Franklin Roosewelt the margin of victory in four straight elections. Many of these votes, let it be remembered, have been Republican in the past and it would represent no great ideological shift to bring them back into the fold.

It also seems to us that there is a real opportunity for the Republicans to make headway in the Solid South with Mr. Stassen as their presidential candidate. The sole reason for maintaining the one-party system, disfranchisement of the Negro. is rapidly vanishing before the onslaught of englishened public opinion, and the more immediate pressure of a series of adverse Supreme Court decisions. It will not have disspeared completely by 1948, but it will be on the way out in areas where any lefort to batter down the Democratic susceptly has always been doomed to auto-It also seems to us that there is a real

matic failure. If the existing Republican organizations could, by some miracle, shake off the handicap of years of hand-to-mouth existence and doubtful respectability, they might make a permanent breach in the one-party barricades.

one-party barricades.

There is always a great opportunity for political revolution in the shifting of Party opinion. The resurgent conservative Demoratic wing, without power to take control of the Party, can only serve as a wrecking crew, reducing Democratic chances of victory in 1948 with every Administration measure they block. Trading on the discontent thus created, and mathalming a precarious balance somewhere between the diehard reaction of the Tafts and Martins and the mild liberalism of Mr. Slassen, the Republicans would make a powerful appeal to thousands of disgusted Southern Democrats of all shades of opinion.

crats of all shades of opinion.

A break in the one-party system based on real issues, not the temporary hysteria of the Smith campaign, would represent a permanent gain for the Republican Party of far greater proportions than a national victory in the presidential cammaign of 1948 obtained with the South still in the Democratic column. And, oddly enough, it would also represent a tremendous gain for all the voters—liberal, conservative, or middle-of-the-road—of the South, Nothing short of an active two-party system will free us of the political bondage we accepted voluntarily in the dark days of Reconstruction.

For industrial uses, the Government Bureau of Standards announces what it thinks is a foolproof atom. It could, of course, be underestimating our fools.

It seemed at this writing that world peace might have a chance, unless an-other Russian secret agent in Canada or somewhere suddenly decides to go straight.

The crudeness of the Russian expansion-ist jars the older empires. If one wishes to invade a neighbor, let one arrange to be called to "intervene," in clear ven-triloquiai tones.

The later conciliatory speeches of Stalin have been an agreeable surprise to one and all. Unusually early in the year, isn't it, for the ice to be breaking up in Uncle Joe?

A month after marrying the department store helress Hank Greenberg joins the ranks of the 10 best-dressed men—the most intelligent approach thus far to the scarcity in gents' wear.



People's Platform

Opposition To The Bond Issue

UPDOSITION

CHARLOTTE

I WOULD like to sak some questions as I have lived at the little North Segram Street for the past 32 years, in the Belmont and Villia Reights section.

In 1934 or 1938, I was sent to a meeting in the Central High School Auditorium. At which time a million and a half dollar bond issue was under district, They agreed to spend \$100,000 in hich time a million and \$100,000 in hich time a million and so the section \$100,000 in his area amported the bond issue and were given a raw deal. What I would like to ask is what became of the rest of the money?

All of the section north of the Sectionard Rail-rough and case of the socion north of the Section Rail-rough and the section profits of the section and play-ground bonds, as nothing has ever been done for parks in this area, so why be disappointed?

In 1802, Mis. Phiter gave six acres of land in this area for a park and nothing has been done town find "Bit when Jesus as wit, he was much displeased, and said unto them, suffer the little children to come unto me, and forbid them not; for of such is the Edngdom of God."

I say for the voters of this section to so out and defeat these bonds and wit until a school board favorable to this section in authority until we issue much miles also have available put in homes for the putter have been his building all my Hie. I'd rather see such material as is now available put in homes for

worship of this securing in anomy, many we more bonds.

Interior bonds, many bonds and many bits. It arises see all the end as is now available put into homes for soldier loops rather than into public building that can wait until our soldiers are housed.

Register and vote ngainst these bonds which will only purchase about one-half of what they would in normal time. Thirly two years is a long time to pay laxes to satisfy a City Council.

—N. C. BHRNS

-N. C. BURNS

(NOTE: Without attempting to pass on the merits (NOTE: Without altempting to pass on the merita of Mr. Burn's chuln that his section has had a raw deal, we do point out that failure to vote for the boat stake will only perpetuate any inequility that now resist. There can never be an adequate physyround without more funds for the general campidge, nor characteristic that the second control of the control of the proposed of the control of the

On The Make

LINCOLYTON

I SEE by The News you all are wel. I was too, until road from my home. Well, I am not well across the road from my home. Well, I am not well across the road from my home. Well, I am not well across the road from my home. Well, I am not well across the allow a few bottle of beer or a couple of drinks of hisky to make them lose their minds and turn into beasts, well, it's_lust too much. Strong drink wasn't ever intended as a beverage in the first place. I can well remember when a gullon jug act under If you had been a beverage in the first place. I can well remember when a gullon jug act under If you had been a beverage in the first place in the first place. I can well remember when a do do did us boy, but never as a beverage. It just will not do to use strong drink as a beverage—absolutely not.

not.

Well I see by the editorial page you have your Republicans also, and maybe that is a good thing. The properties of the see that is a good thing. The properties will be seen the running around in circles too. Maybe a change would do us all good.

And since when did a draft law prevent war?

Anybody who thinks it will will please stand on his head. The fellow with the big ramy might be top doe, but what's to keep the other dogs from ganging up on him?

Well, we refer be to the cope from ganging to the cope of the cope of

so.

—J. F. ENREY.

(NOTE: Brother, you said it.—Eds., THE NEWS.)

CHARLOTTE

CHARLOTTE

An Obvious Fact

ALL I know is what I read in The Charlotte News, and hear over the radio.

A and hear over the radio.

A and hear over the radio was commentated bread-easting to the effect that even Senator Peoper anoticed that Under Sam seemed to be getting awaitly Anglo-Saxon, lately, where Russia was concerned.

I was, of course, unimpressed. If the commentator had announced that Senator Peoper, or any other responsible member of our Government, had failed to notice that obvious fact, I would have been supported to the commentation of the commentation o

and while he spone,
of quote.
I should like to go on record as saying that Senstor Hatch is the most naive gentleman that I have
heard tell of in a long time.
—ALTON E. BASSETT

Palestine, Races, Alcohol

CO glad you had those articles about Detection in a your paper. (NOTE: The series by Raibh Mersill, editor of the Allanta Constitution—Feds, Tree Stress.) They were so wise and timely, as are all your articles on the race question.

It wish the Palestine articles could be put in both form.

— while your readers that alcohol is a habit-forming poison.

— whish, ROSE BLANTON.

OUTE: How did that last paragraph get in here?—Eds., THE NEWS).

For A Pioneer

LOS ANGELES, CALIF. DLEASE send us the mat pictured on the front page of The Charlotte News, the Monday, March 5, 1946 edition which shows a youth group carrying placards opposing liquor stores. I would appreciate it very much if you would.

The National Voice, "Planers in Temperance Breathers"

casting."
(NOTE: On the way.—Eds., The News).

The People's Platform is available to any reader who cares to mount it. Communications should be less than 10 one side of the paper. Libel and obscently 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, Tra Rivas.

Portrait Of Hunger

Marquis Childs

real facts.

Until the London speech, Hoover had taken a cautious view. He had talked about the possibility of "getting by" if only food shipments were continued for the next three

SITUATION WORSE

Obviously, in its scope and in its intensity, the situation today is far worse than the one which confronted Hoover after World War I. Yet he insists that it can be cured by the same methods that were applied then.

At a press conference the done

piled then.

At a press conference the day after his London speech, Hoover said that voluntary methods of food conservation in the United States would be sufficient. He insisted it would not be necessary to resume compulsory rationing in this coun-

This goes back, of course, to a deep-seated stubborn conviction on Hoovers part that the methods employed in World War I were superior to the methods used in World War II, Part of it is traceable to his resentinent over the fact that the course of the world war in the course of the

President Roosevel hever cause of him for advice or help during the second of the seco

WARHINGTON this speech it casedon to the emergency conference on food, berner Hoover described Europe's hunger without mincing words, Eavaning seen it at first hand, he psinted a picture dark with the threat or famine for 170,000,000 Europeans.

Thus he confirmed the reports a speech of 50,000,000, sehind Thus he confirmed the reports as posed to Precident Trimmar. ROWLES WON DELAY

memoraning of .00,000,000, bening memoraning of .00,000,000, bening an appeal to Precident Truman.

BOWLES WON DELAY

Even before V-J Day, when Related to the second of t

of fats and oils by that method.

DISHEARIZHNING POLI.

A Washington Post poil showed that only a small percentage of the capital's residents were sexually trying to cut down on the amount of food they ste. And because it is a small percentage of the capital's residents were a small control of the capital's residents that is about it he average might be higher for the capital's families than it would be elsewhere might be higher for the capital's families than it would be elsewhere.

It would take political courage or try to resione rationing, But the long pull.

Samuel Grafton

Our Russophobia

NEW YORK

INVENTORY: How many items
of American thinking, foreign and
of American thinking, foreign and
of the state of Russial it is a
sad inventory. One can start almost anywhere and end almost
anywhere in compiling the glum
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pening years of this century.
When the Russians announce a
program for producing more accle
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game of comparisons so interesting.)

LOVERS IN A STORM

The thing shows up on the Security Council of the United Nations, where no one, now, expects to see Britain and the United States divided on any point; two as healthily quarrelsome nations as exist in this world are now always to be found to control to the council of the council

the right, because it is Nasi, and we will not work with the left, because it might be pro-Russian; the result is that nothing works, the result is that nothing works, and the result is that nothing works, and the result is the result in the result is the result in a Russian play, especially like those who, disdating passion on their own, make hitter comment from the first-side corner.

SHOWDOWN LEVEL

SHOWDOWN LEVEL

How much has happened. In less than a year! What we confront now is not one realistion," to be resolved by matching rights and wrongs. Her was the realistic properties of the resolved by matching rights and wrongs. Her convultation of mature, a disaster bigger than the characters who enace parts in it, or a change like the subdischange of the realistic properties of the realistic properties.

Situation At Trieste Grows More Tense Drew Pearson's • Merry-Go-Round •

WASHINGTON THERE is an excellent reason why Secretary of State James Byrnes has been urging the Russians to all down with him soon at the long-delayed peace conference. There is also a significant back-stage reason why the Russians up until this week had been hanging back.

ons week had been hanging back.

Solts reasons revolve around the same dynamite-laden situation—Friese. Each side, however, views it from a different form of the same dynamic side of the same side o one else.

Secretary Byrnes, on the other hand, wanted to confer with the Foreign Ministers this month, not only because the Peace Conference siready was too long at the brink of open warfare with a former ally. And the longer they sit there, the more dangerous the situation becomes

ned. Probably that's the reason he banned them—to prevent further knowledge of Russian troop movements.

3. U. S. troops in Tristet have been given orders to fire if the Yugoslave enter the city.

4. The Italian Government has offered to place fifteen divisions at the disposal of the Americans and British. However, they lack heavy arms and would have to be given new equipment. The United States has declined this offer.

offer. In brief, Trieste has all the potentialities of war. Some diplomatic observers think this is what the Russians want—armed conflict between the United States and Yugeslavis, Obviously the Russians don't want to bear the brund of this conflict or initiate it. However, if a pupple such as Tito, who has a reputation for irresponsible bussedoccio, can be the front man, the Russians might be disjended.

Capital Chaff

Peace Conference already was too long delayed, but because American troops in Trieste are already at the brink of open warfare with a former ally. And the longer they all there is the more dangerous the attackion becomes.

Troops Ordered To Fire

SEVERAL developments in the past few days have made 5. Trieste even more explosive. They are:

1. This has forbidden American and British silplanes to 1, which is the past two manual processes and crossed the border into Yugoslavia. U. S., observers know this from the reconnaisance flights which Tito has now bear and crossed the border into Yugoslavia. U. S., observers know this from the reconnaisance flights which Tito has now bear and crossed the border into Yugoslavia. U. S., observers know this from the reconnaisance flights which Tito has now bear and crossed the border into Yugoslavia. U. S., observers know this from the reconnaisance flights which Tito has now bear and the properties of the word of the White House Market and the border into Yugoslavia. U. S. observers know the first the word of the White House Market and the White House House American troops in Trieste are already at the brink of open the hidd author of the White House Market and the White House House American troops in Trieste are already at the brink of open the hidd author of the White House American troops in Trieste are already at the brink of open the hidd author of the White House American troops in Trieste are already at the brink of open the hidd author of the White House American troops have the brink and the hidd author of the White House American troops have the brink at the brink author of the White House American troops have the brink at the brink author of the White House American troops have the brink at the brink author of the White House Boston and the held author of the White House Boston and the held author of the White House Boston and the held author of the White House Boston and the held author of the White House Boston and the held author of the White House Boston and the

satisfied with the trouble his father caused when he tried to advise the American people. However, like father, like son. . Randolph Churchill had a long secret conference with that great friend of England, Col. Robert McCormick, publisher of the Chicago Tribune, before he sailed.

GI Clothes In Alaska

GI Clothes in Alaska

THE Doellitle "caste system" board really got an earful
when it istened to the testimony of ex-Pvt. Masoim G.
Douglas, who once served with the Byrd expedition to the
Antarctic and later with the Air Forces in Alaska.

Douglas assaled the customer of the Company of the Company
of the Company of the