

Horse And Buggy Air Mail

SINCE the untimely end of the U. S. Mule, a late friend of Lili Albers and... Since the untimely end of the U. S. Mule, a late friend of Lili Albers and... Since the untimely end of the U. S. Mule, a late friend of Lili Albers and...

Apparently the scheme was hatched in Washington early in the year, in an attempt to improve service or as an economy measure. It should be obvious to officials now that they have been miserably, far as adequate service for the Carolinas is concerned and no time should be lost in remedying the situation.

Air mail letters from Los Angeles reach Charlotte as quickly as air mail from New York. An ordinary three-cent stamp brings a letter here as soon as the much-publicized five-cent airmail stamp from Chattanooga passes through here, is flown to Washington or Atlanta for sorting, then put on another plane, and flown back here for delivery. Under this system, the air mail service is no bargain; it's a mild kind of fraud, you might say.

We can't know what other factors were involved in the decision to collect and deliver mail in the Atlanta and Washington depots but it is clear enough that air mail service was satisfactory in this area before the system was changed. From the evidence presented, including a number of letters delivered locally, the situation is plain: air mail is rendering inferior service in this area.

Our enterprising reporter, Tom Lynch, grubbed out the facts in a survey last week, and found that the slow train through Carolina often beats a swift plane to Charlotte. While we have long known that local Postal authorities were apparently helpless, that time was not wasted at the airports, or in flying systems. It is being wasted in a new system of distribution, upon the "Mule" between Atlanta and Washington. The resulting confusion causes ridiculously long delays in delivery of local mail from East Coast points.

Though 29 planes pass through Charlotte on daily schedules, service still lags. This is because these planes aren't carrying mail directly. The two depots serving the Southeast are the trouble centers. Congressman Hamilton Jones promises immediate conference with Postal authorities, and it is doubtful that the long line of protests will follow immediately. Business firms accustomed to the luxury of speedy air mail service will insist upon its own. Either Charlotte needs a depot of its own, or air mail delivered locally, should be sent directly, using the swift flights which, somehow or other, carried the mail before the Washington reformation.

Parenthood In Our Time

A GENTLEMAN in a neighboring county has recently fathered his nineteenth child, and his envious friends have dubbed him "The Father of the Year." It is our observation that the prime requisite for this sort of distinction, which is bestowed upon the most fortunate Americans annually, is generally met by parents of vast productivity.

to modern customs secures his special niche in the hall of fame. Population analysts tell us that the child-bearing habits of our time have a marked effect on the economic and social conditions under which we live. The upper and middle classes, who are best equipped financially to raise a family, are having fewer children than they should. Because families in the lower financial strata are of great increase, the total number of the population, being denied the economic and educational opportunities necessary for informed, useful citizenship. The corresponding low quality of political and moral leadership of our society is all too obvious.

Occasionally parents are honored by organizations for the eminence which their children have attained; the mother of the Eisenhower boys and of the Compton brothers, for example. However, as a general rule, "The Father of the Year" award is chosen from the ranks of those with numerical superiority.

Whether one raises two children or twenty, under the influence of 1947 or more of the Gay Nineties, the fundamental obligation of the parents does not vary. The current wave of crime and moral laxity marked by hordes of youthful delinquents is impressive evidence that too many parents have forgotten that obligation. The real fathers and mothers of the year are not those few who obtain a freakish sort of notoriety through their twins, triplets, or singletons in odd lots up to fifteen or twenty, but the millions who are daily attempting to instill in their children an appreciation of the importance of moral concepts in an amoral time.

Less Liquor Means More Food

THE Distilled Spirits Institute has agreed to recommend to the entire distilling industry curtailment of liquor production during the world food emergency. Under a plan approved by the Federal Food and Drug Administration, liquor manufacturers will use no more wheat and will reduce the amount of other grains by 50 per cent. An estimated 2,500,000 bushels of grain will be made available for shipment overseas.

There should be complete revision of the tax structure, in these postwar years. Double taxation is the greatest modern foe of the taxpayer. Every effort to eliminate overlapping, multiple taxation. Each level of government, national and state, should have separate sources of revenue, free from encroachment, interference and dictation by the other. In a long range program of co-ordination of the tax laws, the Federal Government should leave that field entirely to the national government.

Mr. Luckman expresses no doubt that the distilling industry will accept this recommendation and the industry's own interests will be justified. The production of liquor is an obvious example of a luxury commodity which Americans can and must enjoy in smaller quantities when the European economy is in the process of collapse. And even as the average tippler will be forced to accept inferior brands, if and when he can get them, so the manufacturer must prepare for a temporary reduction in their enormous profits.

It ought to leave to the states all purely local taxes such as the admissions and entertainment tax, the poll tax, the highway tax, and the income tax to offset its loss in the repeal of its income tax law.

Reciprocity For Russia

THE bars that Soviet Russia has erected around its country have been used to keep out an Assistant Secretary of State and Senatorial travelers. There should be only one reply from the State Department, and that was contained in the last report issued early this year by the special House Committee on postwar planning headed by Representative Colmer.

The committee insisted on a policy of the "strictest reciprocity." Evidence in support of such a policy has accumulated at a rapid clip and is being collected by the Colmer Committee called for it. This is what the committee, after giving instance after instance of secrecy and discrimination, said:

It is therefore the opinion of the committee that the strictest reciprocity should be applied to Russia into the United States of Russian diplomats and government agents by our own representatives in Russia. Exclusion of Russians from Japan and our own representatives from the closing of their zones to our entry.

It is necessary then, surely there can be no question about it now. In Europe the conservatives hope to come in on a Right Wing and a prayer.—Arkansas Gazette.

At the present time the committee is given to understand that there are over 200 American representatives in the United States as contrasted with less than 200 representatives in Russia. Extension of the same principles should be made to Russian-controlled zones to secure the adequate protection of our own representatives there. Technicians should be similarly treated, though it would certainly be advantageous to get as wide as possible an



People's Platform

Karl Marx And Taxes

GREENSBORO Sermon To Drivers COLUMBIA, S. C.

JUST one hundred years ago, Karl Marx began to preach in Europe his gospel of the class struggle, of the redistribution of the confiscation of property, and its ownership and management by the state, which always means the politicians. He wrote much about greed and the exploitation of the worker. Well of course greed can never be defeated, whether in business or government. Karl Marx was then and is now the darling of the communists and socialists. Of course greed and speculation are not cured by socialism; Stalin and Molotov live like oriental potentates, with state dinners that would make New Year green with envy.

The second and third planks in Karl Marx's Communist Platform were: (2)—A heavy progressive or graduated income tax. (3)—Abolition of all rights of inheritance. This doctrine was used a hundred years before our income tax amendment was adopted in this country.

There is no better system devised by government to re-distribute wealth than by a progressive or graduated income tax. If this policy is to continue, our people must insist on a limitation of the taxing power of the government. In peace and in war. Legislators have passed resolutions, insisting on a limitation of taxation in peace times. The Governors Conference which met in August, 1947, in Salt Lake City seriously considered the problem of unlimited taxation.

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On the other hand the national government ought to abandon the gasoline tax and the automobile tax. The position of the Federal Government in this respect is, it ought to let the states have the entire inheritance tax, which is a small source of Federal revenue.

It ought to leave to the states all purely local taxes such as the admissions and entertainment tax, the poll tax, the highway tax, and the income tax to offset its loss in the repeal of its income tax law.

The world's leaders are deadlocked," Osborne told the atomic scientists and others in Washington. "They have reached a point where they are not going to give the world an instrument for wrecking the world, they feel they should also try to find some means of saving the world."

"Any move the United States makes for peace, no matter how sincere," Osborne said, "is not in Russia, merely because it is made by the United States. No matter how ardently your slogan is adopted, it is not in Russia, because the machinery of Western Europe has a feeling of hopelessness too. They can't win either."

"So maybe," continues Osborne, "is where just the plain common sense of the world can do something—the people who have to fight wars. Perhaps if they now step in and demand that the world government—great mass demand by millions of people, then it's possible they can do what the world's leaders cannot do."

Hope Dies In United Nations OSBORNE points out that the United Nations, now split wide open and falling to function, can never solve the world's present impasse. It gets more deadlocked every time it meets. But if several million people in the United States, France, England and the Scandinavian countries elect their own delegates to a world conference in Geneva, then they

From a broadcast over the American Broadcasting network... reasonably satisfactory. How is it integrated? How is its meaning explained to the masses? How do they read? Various, so a newspaper sensationalize already sensational news and events.

Overseas, there is still much room for improvement. The American newspaper (there are scarcely half-a-dozen) exceptions no longer maintain the high standards of their foreign field. They rely upon the three great wire services. And these organizations, in financial pressure, are not always able to do the job they should. In news coverage, the American press has been reduced since the war. In many capital, staffs supposed primarily to gather news, are reduced to the job of selling newspapers.

But, in general, a magnificent job is being done in gathering the daily news file of the world. This news, of course, is channeled by human hands and human eyes. Some of the news cannot possibly be processed without selective judgment, unless the editor is in time pressure and competitive pressure, which have their bad as well as their good effects. There is rigid censorship in some areas, notably in Soviet Russia.

Yet American newspapermen bear a momentous responsibility. It is obvious that world civilization is at the crossroads. The present condition of the American people may mark the way up or down. There is an increasing realization that the dollar aid to war-weakened countries—however necessary—will not be enough to induce a return to stability in the Marshall Plan, as a primary need.

Yet American cultural imperialism—which much of the world fears, and thinks it sees in the news of Hollywood—must be awakened Americans themselves and then the world to the dynamic, evolutionary potentialities of our Western heritage. This doctrine demands more for men and nations than any kind of armistice. It is more deeply revolutionary than Communism.

American newspapermen can lead their readers to this new birth. They cannot do it by words alone. The substance of our faith must be demonstrated in our daily job, of course, begins at home. There are problems in every community, and the solution of these problems. Selfishness, greed, corruption can be exposed. Social justice can be demonstrated. Peace can be accepted as an unswerving obligation. "Without fear or favor" can be a reality, instead of a phrase.

Victor Riesel Labor Vote Tip-Off

I CHICAGO and Chicago today only to discover that the AFL has broken two weeks ago in a hotel room in Peoria.

What I wanted to know was what the "grass root" labor men, the hard-working middle of the road fellows who fought the Capone mob, the Purple Gang, and the Black Legion to keep Midwest labor clean; what they thought of the AFL for glamour, but have built radio stations, honest reputations and big labor clubs—what are they going to do about the AFL? How are they going to throw their weight around?

What to do is vital. For they will set the pattern of labor's political action. They're the tip-off on when Harry Truman defends the title.

It was the news out of Peoria which told much of the story—namely that the AFL will not split with the Republican Party despite the AFL-CIO merger. The AFL will not split with the Republican Party (Tat-Hartley to you).

It can safely be reported that despite the union leaders' understandable anger over the Tat-Hartley law, they will not split with the Republican Party. They will not break with the Republicans.

In CIO, however, the story is different. CIO is big in the Chicago area, bigger than the AFL. That sector is of the world's largest labor unions. It has about 150,000 of Phil Murray's steel workers living and voting there.

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Drew Pearson's Mission To U. S. For World Government

Merry-Go-Round... UNITED STATES OF EUROPE or a United States of the World could gradually germinate. Osborne figures it will take at least two years to hold a world conference; but he also figures the time to begin day.

"I don't want the movement to grow too fast over here," Osborne explains, "because if the United States begins advocating world government too vigorously, then Russia will regard it as an American proposition."

"So let us get a start first in England, France and Scandinavia," Osborne said. "If we can get such determination that you can't help being convinced not only that Britain is not dead, but that he may have the germ of an idea which can really save the peace."

BOB TAIT'S advance hucker on his Washington State barnstorm was graced by Senator Harry Campbell in the jump-off into the Pacific Northwest, the two held a last-minute hug in San Francisco.

"If they try to stop," rumbled the Washington Republican, "I'll personally see to it in my state paid any attention to you until the picketing starts."

Eisenhower Grins

GENERAL EISENHOWER'S greatest asset is his personal charm. When he emerged from a conference the other day, he was surrounded by a throng of admirers.

"You would see your eye on Detroit, tomorrow you'll see the pay-off in the elections. The militant and left-wing elements of the CIO are going grab-bag politics and have nominated 40 of the 191 candidates for the 1948 election."

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