

You're Cutting A Nice Figure, Harry!

Marquis Childs
Truman Transformed

For A State Wage-Hour Law

PREVIOUSLY, there will be considerable opposition to the wage-hour law now before the Legislature. A few employers will fight it on a dollar and cents basis, complaining that they cannot afford to pay workers \$16 for a 40-hour week, but this sounds a little thin in this season of inflation. Most of the opponents, we suspect, will rely upon a theoretical defense — opposition to any additional encroachment of government into the sacred precincts of free enterprise.

"They have an argument in principle, of course, and it's not a bad one. But it seems to us that the theory of minimum wage legislation has now become well-established in this country as to be almost beyond legitimate controversy. The bill sponsored by the North Carolina Department of Labor seeks to extend to virtually all intrastate workers — with the exception of farm and domestic labor — the benefits of the Federal Wage-Hour Law. The Federal law, in operation now for almost a decade, has certainly been thoroughly tested. And it now has all but universal approval; the Republican Party at least Senator Telford, the Democrats, the National Association of Manufacturers and the United States Chamber of Commerce.

Because of its universal application, it cannot be argued that a wage-hour law works an undue hardship on any individual employer. If it forces an increase in

wages in one laundry, for instance, it also forces a similar increase in all other laundries, and there is no basic change in the competitive relationship. Nor can it be argued that the state law would involve employers in additional red tape; existing legislation requires the maintenance of employment records and provides that they must be made available to Labor Department inspectors, all that would be required under the proposed statute.

More than half of North Carolina's workers are now covered by the Federal law, and we have heard of no movement among interstate employers to advocate its repeal. Most of them have found that placing a fixed floor under wages and a fixed ceiling on hours has increased loyalty to the company and efficiency of their operation. They do oppose, in many cases, any further elevation of the wage floor, but this is really a separate question having nothing to do with the basic principle.

The fact that a man works for a company engaged in interstate commerce does not make his job any more or necessarily require of him any higher skill. Yet thousands of North Carolinians work shorter hours and are paid better wages than thousands of other North Carolinians for no more valuable reasons. This, saying aside all other considerations, seems to us to make passage of the proposed state wage-hour act a matter of simple justice, and we hope it will impress the Legislature.

Where Have You Been, Senator?

WE WROTE a few days ago that it appeared that the bitter and unsupported charges of Communism hurled at David Lillenthal by Senator McKellar of Tennessee were missing their mark and predicted that Mr. Lillenthal would be confirmed as Chairman of the Atomic Energy Commission. We were wrong. It appears now that the Republican Party may vote in a body against his confirmation; at least Senator Telford, the Democrats, G.O.P. leader, has announced his opposition.

At the same time we predicted that Mr. McKellar, protected by Senatorial courtesy, would receive no reprimand from his colleagues for his disgraceful and irresponsible performance. We were right about that. Far from receiving a reprimand, he has been eulogized by his colleague from Tennessee, Senator Stewart, in *The Congressional Record*.

What makes Senator Stewart's statement so remarkable is his bland assumption that only Marquis Childs, the Washington columnist, has condemned Senator McKellar. Childs has written that McKellar has "acelerized the attack on Mr. Lillenthal as a 'dishonorable performance.'" He said: "This is the first time in my acquaintance with Senator McKellar that any man has had the courage to speak so unfavorably with no comment, but it seems to us a few words are in order here.

History Can't Be Legislated

THE Education Committee of the House of Representatives turned in a good day's work yesterday when, by unanimous vote, it killed the bill by Representative Dellinger of Gaston that would have defined the Mecklenburg Declaration of Independence as gospel truth and required that all teachers in the state so accept it. The bill was reported unfavorably, but with no comment, but it seems to us a few words are in order here.

Mecklenburgers certainly appreciate Representative Dellinger's sincere effort to defend a proud historical tradition against its detractors. But few of them, we believe, would have approved his attempt to legislate history. We think that the revision of all textbooks to remove therefrom any reference to the questions raised by historians and statesmen from Thomas Jefferson forward. It would have established, by law, one version of the Declaration and required that each be taught in the public schools.

Obviously, history cannot be legislated. The Mecklenburg Declaration existed prior to the fire in John McKnight Alexander's

Another Voice

'Remember The Dorchester'

SO LITTLE remembered is the story of the evacuation of the most of the war years pass it over, in many instances ignored, and as if by ignorance or forgetfulness of the mighty heroism which must come to stamp its memory. The Dorchester was the victim of a German torpedo off Greenland four years ago. Week by week, it was a moving picture of the sea. There was little time for the lifeboats and distribute life belts. And there were too few boats and too few belts for the struggling passengers plugged into the lifeboats. But the death toll was smaller by four because of an heroic act of sacrifice. The deed bears the names of Poling, Fox, Washington and Godde, the four chaplains aboard the Dorchester. They gave their lives to others who were saved. One Protestant, a Catholic and a Jew joined hands in prayer and went down with the ship. In simple ceremonies they have been re-

been reading all these years. Many of the newspapers in his home state have had far stronger words than those for the senator. *Time* Magazine, no Party organ, has published an editorial by Senator McKellar as a spokesman. *The New York Times* has condemned his attack upon Mr. Lillenthal in even harsher terms than those used by Mr. Childs. As a matter of fact, the *New York Times* has in its present articles in print outside *The Congressional Record*.

But Senator Stewart doesn't rest with his defense of Senator McKellar. He goes on to point out that "no man has ever questioned the honor and integrity" of Boss Crump of Memphis, Senator McKellar's acknowledged mentor. We can only wonder if Senator Stewart's subscription to *The Nashville Tennessean* has by any chance expired.

The Senator took particular offense at this paragraph in the Childs column: "Tennessee's delegation in Congress is led by a man who has been eulogized by McKellar. It is largely composed of men of capacity and integrity. But the stain of the attack on Mr. Lillenthal, as if by accident, spreads a long way.

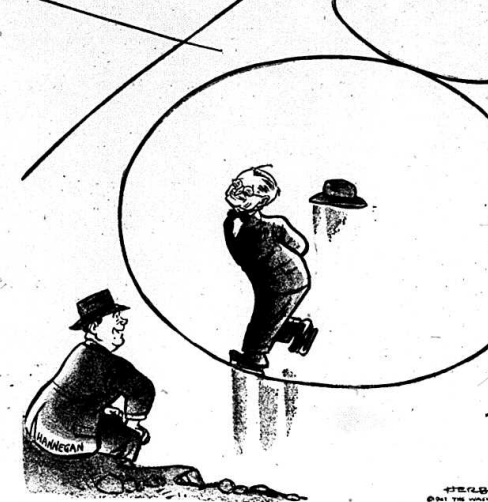
It seems to us that Senator Stewart's peculiar speech furnishes proof positive that the peculiar stain has spread a long way indeed. The Dellinger Bill was based on a dubious theory — the idea that government is empowered to decide whether history is true or false. That sort of arbitrary power, established by law, is one version of the Declaration and required that each be taught in the public schools.

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membered; at the dedication of a swimming pool in a veterans center, named for the four, in scrolls and plaques presented to families and friends, and in an unforgettable drawing of the dying Dorchester which depicts their sacrifice.

But this should not be all. Soon the American people will observe Brotherhood Week, a time of testimony to the tenets of tolerance and understanding and unity which were so precious in the war years and which are indispensable to peace. Is there a better symbol than this sacrifice most impressive, Catholic and Jew in the name of humanity? We think not. For name of him, however, Pearl Harbor there needs to stand: "Remember the Dorchester." —*Asheville Citizen.*

Can Spring be far behind? We are glad you ask that, and will try to answer it in the weeks ahead.



People's Platform
On Presidential Tenure

CHARLOTTE
EXCUTIVE ORGANIZED

To begin with, Mr. Truman feels that he has organized the executive branch of Government in such a way that the line of responsibility is now unmistakably clear. In his opinion, the President's desk is a large handsome chart. At the top of the chart is the President, or with none at all, it explains this chart to visitors.

Mr. Truman and the political chief of his party understand each other so well that no go-ahead signal from the White House is necessary to prepare for the President's nomination in 1948. When Hanesweg returns from his rest cure in Florida, the President began by saying that, if Hanesweg's health should be improved, as would have to stay on in his dual capacity as party chairman and postmaster general.

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we add these statements together, anyone can see that the consumer trade through the liquor store has increased liquor consumption in South Carolina. I suppose our population has increased but not much.

Mr. Sutton states: "I don't think much of the indirect co-operation of church leaders and laymen with the scum of the country called bootleggers, in an effort to defeat what most people realize is the only way to have liquor sold. No true Christian would agree with this statement because we are as much against the bootlegger selling liquor as a legal bootlegger selling it. We do not believe that there is any right way to sell it.

Mr. Sutton states that an honest person cannot deny that the large volume of illegal whiskey being sold in Charlotte and Mecklenburg County is the fault of the bootlegger and the churches. I wonder if this definition of honesty would be agreeing with those who say that the churches in no case are at all. I have an idea that the churches in that part of the state are doing their duty, and this is the reason Mr. Sutton is holding their feet.

I agree with Mr. Sutton that the church, the school, and the home have an opportunity to help control it today, although it has not been banished and never will be. There would be much more drinking if it were not for these institutions.

When these laws, like others, are enforced and greater fines for bootlegging are imposed along with the imprisonment of individuals are imposed, they are helping to control it today, although it has not been banished and never will be. There would be much more drinking if it were not for these institutions.

—H. S. SNOW
NOTE: We didn't say "completely free," just "plain free." The "ins" of 1942 were still in effect of 1946, and presumably still controlling ten per cent of the votes through patronage. Yet, after fourteen years of Democratic domination, the State of Tennessee was free enough to permit the Republicans to wrest from the Democrats control of both Houses of Congress. As we said in a paragraph "Snow" has skipped over lightly: "The fundamental question of those seeking to amend the Constitution is not whether we can fix an arbitrary limit on Presidential tenure than existed in the days when the Constitution was drafted." —EIS, THE NEWS.

In Rebuttal
GAFNEY'S C. C.
Editors, THE NEWS: On February 9 letter by Mr. J. M. Sutton appeared in this news. In this article, Mr. Sutton stated that the churches were lowering the standards of the Government just before the liquor sales. We are lowering the Christian standard when we fail to stand against that which is destructive to man. No man is so blinded that he will not admit that alcoholic beverages are destructive to mankind. Alcohol, as a beverage, has never contributed to the welfare or happiness of the people.

Mr. Sutton stated in his article, "It would be impossible to create a larger consumer trade through the local bootlegger. This may be Mr. Sutton's own opinion, but according to a statement, based on facts, Governor Williams just before he left South Carolina has as many bootleggers as there are in the State. He also stated that \$108,161,709.50 was spent in 1946. He based this statement on the State Tax Commission figures. If

hospitally of Waco when he returns from Mexico City and in the Presidential desk several booklets filled with stamps. "You ought to see these, Bob," said the President, opening one. "I have made a mission for you," said the Ambassador gave me for Margaret's stamp collection. They're beautiful things, although I admit I don't know too much about them.

Note—Interesting fact about the stamp gift by the Egyptian Ambassador is that while he could legally give stamps to anyone, he could not have given them to his father. It is against the law for the President of the United States to receive gifts from a foreign government. The FDR's secretary, Miss Lehman, used to insist that stamp collections given him by foreign governments be sent to the State Department to be kept until his term expired. The President frequently hid the stamp gifts before she could dispose of them.

Tax Czar Knutson
MINNESOTA's Rep. Harold Knutson, whose self-styled role as tax expert has been challenged, left, doesn't plan to take any chances about losing control of the House & Means Committee. Meeting in secret session last week, Knutson wasted little time in passing motion permitting unrestricted use of proxies. In other words, no matter how many Republican members may be out playing golf or making the rounds of the State, a meeting is scheduled, Chairman Knutson will be able to vote them almost any way he pleases. Even though a majority of those on hand are Democrats, the Republican Party frequently hid the stamp gifts before she could dispose of them.

WASHINGTON VISITORS to the White House to see the President's transformation that has occurred in scarcely more than three months. The President's transformation is a different man from the respected, unhappy prisoner of last politics who was seen in the White House in the past. The transformation is the speech which Democratic Chairman Robert Hanesweg recently made to Mr. Truman. Both Hanesweg and the White House could say quite honestly that they were surprised by the speech.

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