THE CHARLOTTE NEWS

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SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 6, 1947

The Future Of Prohibition

SINCE Charlotte voters provided the majority that ended prohibition in Mecklenburg County in favor of the ABC liquor store system, the drys have given numerous indications that they do not intend to accept this defeat. Instead, there is every assurance that they regard it as a temporary setback and will pass up no opportunity to work against ABC in hopes of bringing about a speedy return of prohibition.

The Mecklenburg drys are encouraged in their attitude by a belief that the movement to "solve" the liquor problem by the legislative process is in the midst of a vigorous revival over the country and that there is a chance for the return of national prohibition. One of their leaders, Deets Pickett of the Board of Temperance of the Methodist Church, has predicted that the nation will go "dry" again in five years "if the wets don't get smart and correct current abuses."

Mr. Pickett's optimism is supported by figures showing that in 20,000 local option elections since repeal the drys have won 12,000. A recent survey made by Frederick G. Brownell for *American Magazine* revealed that a large part of the continental area of the United States has been dried up and that 25 million Americans can't legally buy a drink of liquor, 10 million can't buy legal beer.

These figures aren't quite so impressive when they are broken down for closer analysis, for then we find that most of the dry gains have been made in predominantly agricultural sections which have the least political and electoral weight. Only three states—Kansas, Oklahoma and Mississippi still are "bone dry." All the states which show a large or majority percentage for prohibition are in the South. There is no evidence that the prohibitionists have been or are making a real dent in the populous wet strongholds in the urban centers.

While the drys have registered some progress for prohibition in rural areas and smaller cities, the cause of temperance has suffered serious reverses in the country as a whole. A study by Dr. E. M. Jellinek, director of the Section of Alcohol Studies, Yale University, disclosed that the per capita consumption of alcoholic beverages rose steadily during World War II, the number of customers increased by 35 per cent, and the drinking part of the population increased from an estimated 43.5 per cent in 1940 to 60 per cent in 1945.

The question posed by these statistics is whether or not the drys are making a mistake in concentrating all their energies and hopes in legal suppression of the liquor traffic. In view of the growing addiction to alcohol in the more populous centers, and in face of the trend from rural to urban areas, the prospect for anything but a limited revival of prohibition seems more dismal than bright.

The national problem of the drys is identical with the dilemma they face in Mecklenburg County, where the growth of the city created conditions which intensified the liquor evil, shifted political power to the "drinking population" and called for a broader attack on the alcohol question than the prohibition movement offers. While the old wet-dry fight goes on, the challenge grows for a program of intelligent regulation, education and medical treatment that will help the people who can't be reformed by sumptuary laws.

While The Price Spiral Goes On

WE SEE by the papers that the prices of everything we eat except fruits and vegetables still are rising and that meat in New York may soon be $1 a pound, and eggs $1 a dozen, "unless consumer resistance develops."

We don't know what is holding back consumer resistance but we hope it isn't the expectation that Congress and the Administration are prepared to step in at the proper moment to check inflation before it is out of control.

Our Congressmen are just now getting around to their investigation of prices. They are going to put on a big show in many parts of the country. The Senate-House Committee on the Economic report, headed by Senator Taft and Representative Wolcott, Republicans, has mapped out a See America First tour for the Committeemen which will keep them in the headlines until late Fall.

The big price junket begins September 15 when one of the subcommittees, headed by Senator Flanders, Republican, of Vermont, will open hearings. From there the Flanders group will proceed to Boston, New York, Philadelphia, Richmond and Atlanta to get the price picture on textiles, metals goods and other products of this area. Representative Bender of Ohio heads the subcommittee for the mid-continent area, starting in Cleveland September 23 and making the circuit of Chicago, Minneapolis, Kansas City, Dallas, Little Rock and Birmingham. This group will tell us why prices for steel, automobiles, farm machinery, flour, meat, and other food products are so high, as if we didn't know. The Far West will be covered by the subcommittee headed by Senator Watkins, Utah Republican, starting in Denver in October.

What this elaborate inquiry will produce is anybody's guess. At this stage, only two things about it seem certain. One is that it will provoke many disagreements in which the Republican side will consistently win, since each subcommittee includes four Republicans and two Democrats. The other is that the results of their findings will have no effect on high prices this year.

Meanwhile, the Administration has four ways of dealing with the situation. It can urge business to cut prices voluntarily, which it has tried without success. It can seek to restore price ceilings, which is politically impossible. It can undertake antitrust prosecutions, which it now is doing, and these are expected to have but slight effect on prices eventually, if at all.

The market experts, the only encouraging report we get for the buying public is that a slight drop in meat prices is expected in the late Fall but another upturn is in sight for next Spring.

We can't think of a better moment for the consumers to show a little resistance.

Export Blow To North Carolina

AMERICAN observers, on the whole, have been taking a cheerful view of the prospective slump in our foreign trade as the dollar shortage tightens. They seem to think that domestic demands will take up much of the slack as European purchases in this country fall off, and that will result in easing prices and generally promote a healthy readjustment.

Perhaps so, but North Carolina finds it difficult to share in the optimism over the effect of the decline in exports. Its concern is graphically expressed by the *Greensboro Daily News*, which asserts the State should be "bracing herself for a terrific blow to her economic solar plexis." The outlook for North Carolina is summarized thus by the *News*:

> Tobacco is down about 20-25 per cent and it looks very much as if next year's crop will have to be cut by at least the same percentage. This means approximately a 50 per cent drop in the money proceeds of a crop which brought the state farmers nearly half a billion dollars last year. A similar situation exists in regard to another big money crop, peanuts. Cotton may be likewise affected, although perhaps to a less extent.
>
> The reason behind this is all too plain. These are export crops and our customers beyond the seas have run out of dollars. Even if they get some more dollars under the Marshall plan some time next year, they will probably not be in a position to buy much tobacco and our overwhelming money crop will be hard hit. North Carolina is not yet ready to take a quarter of a billion dollars drop in one crop in one year without feeling it.
>
> The people of this country may be in for some more painful reminders of how much our prosperity depends on business with Europe. That trade has, in fact, constituted a major prop of our flourishing economy in the last few years. As shown in the case of tobacco, the slump in exports tends to depress large areas of our economy rather than bring a uniform readjustment. It seems likely to produce a recession before it restores the balance between American supply and demand.

Another Voice

Another Officer Runs Amok

NORTH CAROLINA is having something akin to an epidemic in police brutality, to judge from the Summer's news reports.

The slaying of a police chief by a State Highway Patrolman, the beating of a recaptured prisoner by patrolmen down in the eastern section of the State, the killing of a Negro suspected of theft by a Durham policeman a few months ago, are among the various incidents reported. And now comes the story of the Dunn constable who shot a tear gas gun into the face of a man he had arrested for being drunk, the gas destroying one of the prisoner's eyes and gravely endangering his life.

Incidents of this sort strongly emphasize the growing need for much greater care in the selection of law enforcement officers. Constables are elected by the people within given townships, and unfortunately, too few citizens give much thought to the qualifications of the men who run for this relatively minor office. But any job which gives to its holder the authority of a police officer is important enough for voters to give much thought to the qualifications of those who seek it. When men of quick temper and small judgment possess the power to arrest and imprison others, the best of citizens at times may be subjected to undue humiliation, mayhem or murder.

It probably cannot be repeated too often that the maintenance of an orderly society under the aegis of true democracy depends upon the intelligent, humane and fair administration of the laws. Such administration does not imply any laxity or undue softness toward proven violations and violators of the laws. But it does imply sane, even-tempered, firm but fair and humane treatment of all persons who come into contact with the officers of the law. Obtaining the type of men needed for this type of law enforcement may necessarily cost your local communities and the State Government considerably more in tax money than is now being paid out for law enforcement services. But whatever the costs, we must have this high type of law enforcement if we are to avoid Nazi or KKK hoodlumism in the administration of our legal system.—*Twin City Sentinel.*

People's Platform

Poison In Freedom Park

CHARLOTTE

Editors, THE NEWS:

TO the songbirds, Freedom Park no longer means freedom—it means death! To kill the worms which were destroying the grass, the tufted areas were sprayed with poison. And the poison which killed most of the worms, also killed the birds, who are man's greatest aid in the ceaseless war he wages against insects for control of the world.

To me this occurrence is symbolic. I hope it is not prophetic. To kill an enemy, we poison a friend. And it is ironical that the poisoning should be done in an area dedicated to freedom. True, the poisoning of the birds was unintentional, but it is small comfort to those who loved them to know that the extermination of the birds was not premeditated.

And so, today, alarmed by the subversive activities of the Communists, we attempt to exterminate them by the adoption of un-democratic policies and the use of—autocratic procedures. These remedial actions, vigorously and continuously applied, will eventually eradicate communism from the "land of the free." But in the process of eradicating the Communists we shall eliminate the liberals who, like the songbirds, are the spirit of freedom which wages ceaseless warfare against all forms of totalitarianism.

The last session of Congress authorized a procedure designed to purge Government service of Communists. The Federal employee has only to be suspected of being tainted with communism in order to be deprived of his job. I am not familiar with the details of the enforcing legislation, and so I do not know who is authorized to do the suspicioning, but presumably it is the administrators and executives who, because of their affiliations, are considered to be above suspicion. These "authorities" may now be fair-minded men, who will take pains to see that no loyal employee is unjustly condemned. However, this may not always be true, and the precedent has been established whereby any Government worker may be suspected if he does not belong to a particular church, lodge or union.

And this same Congress passed a law making it obligatory for leaders of labor unions to swear that they are not Communists in order to have the services and protection of the National Labor Relations Board; that is, they are presumptively guilty of treason. In this respect, this law—as it is now interpreted—contravenes the basic legal principle that, during the whole life of this Republic, has stood as a bulwark against autocracy and tyranny.

Furthermore, it is now becoming apparent that the drive for peacetime conscription allas compulsory military training, or—if we must be euphemistic—universal military training is motivated by the decision of the militarists that in order to combat communism in the United States, the youth of the nation must be compulsorily indoctrinated. Fascism. According to their thesis, colleges and universities can no longer be trusted to inculcate patriotism and loyalty. The pliable minds of trusting youths must be molded by the John Calmighty Lees. Blind, compulsory obedience to infallible authority must supercede enlightened, voluntary obedience to fallible reason. In other words, the militarists would have us believe that in order to save the nation they must control it. Which prompts the query: Save it for what?

> "Hail to the blithe Spirit!
> Bird thou never wert!"

—LEWIS AYER SMITH.

Contradictions

CHARLOTTE

Editors, THE NEWS:

MR. P. L. LINDSEY, like many others who attempt to punch themselves out of a paper bag, has taken the unjustified liberty of "putting words into the horse's mouth", apparently for reasons of expediency to facilitate theme, which cannot be regarded as either being constructive or ethical. But nevertheless, the occasion shall be utilized to clear the record and at the same time expatiate on pertinent fact.

Mr. Lindsey contends that "Jewish immigration to Palestine . . . is a right fully established by international law". That statement is officially contradicted by the Anglo-American commission report of April 20, 1946, which reads: "We expressly disapprove of the position . . . that Palestine has in some way been conceded or granted as their State, to the Jews of the world". Consequently, referred reference to the defunct League of Nations is like flogging a dead horse.

And to infer that possession of Palestine is a Jewish right, Jure divino, is to remove the matter completely and unnecessarily from its political category and to unwarrantedly lug in, head and ears, the speculative realm of theism.

Suffice it to say that there is no "Jewish Homeland", as Mr. Lindsey contended. Jewry ceased as a nation with the last decisive blow rendered by the Roman commander Julius Serverus, and no human power can put humpty dumpty back together again.

—A. W. BLACK.

Failure Of Grafton's 'Liberal'

CHARLOTTE

Editors, THE NEWS:

IN Samuel Grafton's Sept. 3 column on this page, he seemed very much concerned over the hypothetical upset and downs of the hypothetical subject here that he chose for that particular essay.

"I keep fretting", he wrote, "about a roadside incident which hasn't happened yet, but which could happen. It would involve a liberal. I have no specific person in mind, but a sort of composite type." Mr. Grafton thereupon proceeded to describe a hero whose liberality consisted chiefly of belonging to a couple of liberal organizations, and contributing occasionally to a liberal magazine. The hero didn't turn out so good.

Mr. Grafton evidently spends so much time writing that he misses some very important reading. If he would read after Mr. C. B. Markham a little bit, for instance, (like in his Diogenetic "Search for a True Liberal"), he would realize that his hero is not deserving of any sympathy in the first place, he being not a liberal, but a "liberal", who wouldn't likely ever have any use for Colonel McCormick's newspaper except maybe to wrap up a little present of some sort for the children at Warm Springs on Franklin Roosevelt's birthday.

In the second place, Mr. Grafton built his hero on a false premise, that is, the magazine that his hero contributed to was not, in the strictest sense, a liberal magazine, but a "liberal" one, and never the twain shall meet.

—A. E. BASSETT.

Stewart Alsop

Truman Troubles Piling Up

WASHINGTON

WHEN President Truman returns from his cruise on the battleship Missouri, he will find himself somewhat in the position of a man stalking an enraged wild bull elephant, while at the same time being numerically bitter by a swarm of mosquitoes. As President of the United States, he will be confronted with the vast issues of the world crisis. At the same time, as leader of the Democratic Party, he will be faced with the irksome but unavoidable necessity of trying to glue together some sort of solid political base for 1948.

He will not have an easy job. His nostrils will be assailed by the smell of decay in the local Democratic organization almost everywhere.

TROUBLE IN NEW YORK

In New York, the regular organization has been unable to recover from the terrible wounds inflicted upon it last year by Governor Thomas E. Dewey. The left and labor groups which supported Roosevelt are splintered in every direction. In addition, the most powerful Democratic public figure in the State, former Governor Herbert Lehman, is very cool to the idea of Truman. This may be in part because Truman disappointed Lehman by failing to appoint him, as American representative at UNESCO, after Senator Arthur Vandenberg blocked Francis Biddle for the job.

At any rate, Lehman has threatened to issue a statement at the President for not having taken a stronger stand on the Palestine issue. Such a blast could have a disastrous effect on the already unhappy Democratic prospects in New York; so disastrous indeed that Democratic State Chairman Paul Fitzpatrick and former national chairman Ed Flynn have been detailed to pacify and somehow silence the aging Lehman.

In Pennsylvania the Democratic organization is split into by Lawrence Montagues and Guffey Capulets. So bitter is this feud that even traditionally Democratic York County is now in Republican hands at the courthouse level. Another feud is in progress in Ohio, where the regular Democratic organization is at daggers drawn with the supporters of former Governor Frank J. Lausche. To make matters worse, Lausche threatens to run again at the first opportunity, thus splitting the party almost beyond hope of repair. And so it goes. In Massachusetts the Democrats are threatened by the unnatural kindness of the Republicans to jailed Democratic Boss James M. Curley, who is expected to repay these courtesies. In California the great Pauley-Roosevelt-Kenney row is still in full swing. Finally, over the whole scene there is the shuddering vision of a Wallace-led third party. Wallace has been repudiated by all the important labor leaders. But he still seems tempted to lead a crusade consisting largely of the woolly-minded and the lunatic fringe of the Communists. There is little doubt that even such a job lot of Wallace votes could beat Truman.

LOOK TO EISENHOWER

The bad case of nerves which this condition of near-chaos in the party causes among the Democratic leaders can be deduced from the fact that some of them are talking seriously of drafting Chief of Staff Dwight D. Eisenhower as Truman's running mate in 1948. The idea is that Secretary of State George C. Marshall should somehow be hypnotized into somehow hypnotizing Eisenhower into taking the No. 2 spot.

Yet before making any other political move, Truman must settle the battle royal now in progress, the resignation of Robert Hannegan as National Democratic Chairman. The battle rages around the energetic and outspoken figure of Gael Sullivan, Hannegan's assistant and a candidate for the succession. The powerful faction of anti-Sullivanite includes most of the conservative Southern Democrats, plus the White House palace guard, Harry H. Vaughn, James K. Vardamann and John Steelman.

The anti-Sullivanites, who have the President's ear, have backed Agriculture Secretary Clinton Anderson, but it now appears probable that Anderson, who has his eyes firmly fixed on the Vice-Presidential nomination, will sidestep the job if it is offered him. Another palace guard nominee has been Sam Jackson, a self-styled anti-Sullivan politico, but Truman is believed to have received this suggestion coolly.

In the Sullivan corner are Hannegan, Attorney-General Tom Clark, most of the Northern Democratic bosses like Paul Fitzpatrick, and all the labor leaders, whose champion in the Administration Sullivan has been. Both A. F. Whitney of the Railway Brotherhoods, whom Sullivan was recently entitled to lecture the AFL's William Green have telegraphed the President strongly urging Sullivan's appointment.

Truman's decision will be interesting. If he chooses Sullivan, it will be a reasonably reliable indication that he intends to continue the revived Democratic alliance with labor and the left. If not, it will show that he wants to mollify the powerful and increasingly restless conservative wing of the Democratic Party. For Truman, it will be no easy choice.

Marquis Childs

Fate Of The Ruhr

ESSEN, GERMANY

HERE at the heart of Germany's crippled industrial empire, the visitor is told that restoration of the production of the Ruhr must be the key to the Marshall plan. Ruhr coal and Ruhr steel were woven intricately into the prewar economy of Europe.

High-level political decisions will finally, of course, determine what happens in the Ruhr. But those who have wrestled with the problems of production know that, regardless of what the politicians decide, the effort of reconstruction is an overwhelming one that cannot be achieved by a directive or a set of orders on paper.

Before the war, about 400,000 tons of coal a day came out of the Ruhr mines. The highest level reached thus far in the two years since the end of the war was just under 240,000 tons.

Twice, the record was built up to that point, and twice it came tumbling down as a result of food shortages. The British executives of the North German Coal Commission, which supervises the Ruhr mines, believes that with more food the miners would dig more coal.

FACING SITUATION

That is the big question mark with the Winter approaching, and no one is too optimistic. American Military Governor Gen. Lucius D. Clay in Berlin had been hoping to raise the dietary level so that each German would get on the average 1,800 calories a day, 2,000 being considered the minimum necessary to sustain active life. He was informed the other day that the ration could not be raised to more than 1,650 at the very most. This was the decision of the food experts who are trying to parcel out the world's pitifully meager supply.

In battered, truncated Germany, performance rarely matches the neat structure that is created on paper. The British say that transportation is the real catch. They insist that, if the goal of 300,000 tons of coal a day were reached, not more than two-thirds of it could be hauled away. They point to the fact that 1,250,000 tons is above ground in the Ruhr now and in one week 100,000 tons was added to this reserve. The miners, seeing the coal pile up, cannot be prodded into greater efforts.

CRITICAL OF BRITISH

American officials in Berlin disagree. They suggest that the British are merely looking for an excuse for their failure to get production. The Americans are inclined to be critical in general of the British effort in Germany. They point to the fact that while we have only 4,000 persons administering our area, the British have 20,000 in their zone.

On the other hand, Americans who work at close range with the British say they are almost always better prepared with the facts. Their experts come to joint meetings with all the data carefully marshalled, and to refute them the American must produce a better set of facts, which he is rarely able to do.

In even a brief glimpse of the Ruhr, you get an idea of how many difficulties stand in the way of production—and often they are difficulties that do not show up on statistical chart. The fact that 10 per cent of the mines were destroyed by bombing and 25 per cent severely damaged is obvious in its effect on production. Not so obvious is the fact that the housewife cannot buy a spool of thread and therefore cannot repair worn-out work clothes.

The time is coming, and soon, when the rehabilitation of the Ruhr mines cannot be postponed. That will be a major operation. It will require a large-scale capital investment—how much, no one has even estimated. Unless it is done, production in the Ruhr mines will turn permanently downward. Politics to one side, this is the kind of urgent necessity the Marshall planners face.

Victor Riesel

A Well-Run Union

NEW YORK

Decency is news on this beat. I'm going to show that you can run a powerful union without strong-arm men, or hoodlumizing machine politicians, or blustering labor barons who long have forgotten what it means to drive a beer wagon or hack coal off the earth's inner veins.

> **I'm going to talk about a union whose leaders never took the outfit away from the working stiffs and never once thought that it was a gadget invented to spotlight a hammy march through history. None of them even wanted to be Vice-President of the U. S.**

I'm talking about the International Association of Machinists—first of the big unions to prove that it is not a secret society, that it has nothing to hide by filing its financial figures, expense accounts and anti-Communist affidavits with the Government.

* * *

Now 634,000 strong and campaigning for the million mark, the machinists' outfit is run by the duespayers—men who put out only $2.50 a month and less for the privilege of working as union men for the railroads, airlines, tool and dye shops, garages and aircraft factories.

> **The union is closed only to Communists, fascists, Nazis and persons promoting "any other totalitarian philosophy". If you've got five or ten bucks you're in — for initiation fees seldom go higher in the IAM.**

And no officer grows rich or buys up big real estate parcels on his union salary. Top wage goes to ex-farm boy Harvey Brown, union president, who draws $12,000 a year; the secretary draws $10,000 and the chief vice-president gets $9,000 for running what may soon become the world's largest union.

* * *

Nor do they stay on forever. The union constitution says an officer must quit at 65—and at a pension which doesn't run much more than $75 a week. When the membership was voting on that rule, Brown and the other leaders campaigned for it so the statute was carried by a ten to one majority.

> **Yet the retirement rule will force the broad-faced, easy-smiling Harvey Brown and three senior vice-presidents to quit in 1949. Just try to imagine the 67-year-old John Lewis, the 73-year-old Bill Hutcheson and the 73-year-old Dan Tobin (who just had himself re-elected for another five years) voluntarily making way for younger men as Brown did.**

These barons would be unhappy in the machinists' outfit. Too much democracy. The rank and file has too much to say. All power, for example, not specifically given to the officers by the constitution "is reserved to the membership." From that Brothers Lewis, "Hutch" and Tobin could get some nervous disease.

* * *

All important issues must be approved by a secret mail ballot of the membership. Business national officers are similarly elected—and compare this with the miners union where some 200,000 don't have the right to vote for or against John L. No by-law can be made or changed even by a national convention unless it is also voted for by all members in a referendum.

* * *

The machinist working stiffs can remove their leaders and call special conventions even if the top-side officials don't want such a gathering.

No machinists' lodge can call a strike until the Conciliation Service has had its chance to settle the squabble. And then a walkout must be approved by a three-quarters vote—by secret ballot—of those affected by the stoppage. No such thing as one man shutting down an industry!

* * *

There's plenty of room for opposition; no member can be expelled without a trial in which he has the right to be represented by counsel and to cross-examine witnesses. The trial procedure is set by a code adopted by the membership. And the code provides for appeal to the international president, the executive council, the convention and then right to the membership.

Mr. Lewis and his brother barons haven't dared let any such freedom seep into their outfits.

That's why I say decency makes news on this beat.

Drew Pearson's Merry-Go-Round

Truman Aides Get In Each Other's Hair

WASHINGTON

THE inner White House feud between two of the President's closest friends, Gen. Harry Vaughan, the military aide, and brain truster Clark Clifford, took a new turn for the worse just before Truman left for Rio de Janeiro.

For some time Clifford has scarcely concealed his dislike for the garrulous, meddling military aide who bobnobs with John Maragon, the ex-Kansas City bootblack and who has dragged some of his friends and people to take up the President's time with personal interviews. On the other hand, General Vaughan calls Clifford the "great brain" and is obviously jealous of Clifford's close "in" with the President.

Latest flare-up occurred when Vaughan, acting as his sidekick, Secretary of Treasury John Snyder, who visited Rio de Janeiro last Spring, worked out a complete itinerary for Truman. Vaughan then submitted this as a "tentative program."

It proved very "tentative," indeed—after Clark Clifford heard about it.

"I'm handling all details of the boss' trip," he bluntly informed Vaughan. "This is something we've got to work out with the State Department and the Secret Service."

Vaughan immediately hit the ceiling. He proceeded to lay out Clifford in language that can't be repeated here, suggesting among other things that Clifford and the State Department pick a hotter place than Washington to plan Truman's itinerary.

Rather than invite an open brawl, Clifford ignored the insulting attack and cooly went about drafting the Rio tour, which Vaughan now boasts is "exactly like I planned it in the first place."

NOTE—Both gentlemen are from St. Louis.

Baseball Goes To Court

THE nine learned Justices of the Supreme Court may be called upon to decide an important baseball row. It is between the New York Yankees and the Western League, headed by U. S. Senator Ed Johnson of Colorado.

Senator Johnson, a Democrat who will not run for reelection, has followed the example of another Democratic Senator, "Happy" Chandler of Kentucky, and entered baseball. As president of the Western Baseball League, he proposes establishing a new ball club in Kansas City, Kansas.

However, the New York Yankees are blocking the deal on the ground that they own a "farm" team in Kansas City, Missouri, just across the river from Kansas City, Kansas. And according to an organized baseball rule, a team with a franchise in a certain city gets exclusive rights to operate in all cities within 100 miles. Kansas City, Kansas, is much less than ten miles distant from Kansas City, Missouri.

However, Senator Johnson has some potent moves up his sleeve which may completely change organized baseball. He has already consulted trust-busting Judge Thurman Arnold and is preparing to bring monopoly charges against the New York Yankees.

In doing so he will seek to upset the old Supreme Court ruling handed down by Justice Oliver Wendell Holmes that baseball is not in interstate commerce. Blocking baseball in Kansas because it competes with a club in Missouri just across the river, Johnson will contend, definitely puts baseball in interstate commerce.

Furthermore, the Colorado Senator will cite several cases where minor league baseball teams are playing within ten miles of big league cities, notably Camden, N. J., just outside New York City, where the Yankees own another "farm" team.

American Legion Battle

LAST week's American Legion debate over housing was a lot hotter than leaked out to the papers. In a closed session of the National Housing Committee, Chairman Cadwallader of Louisiana tried to head off the storm. But other Legionnaires openly charged that the committee's housing report had been dictated by the real estate lobby. Legionnaire Walter Alessandroni of Pennsylvania led the attack in an off-the-record meeting.

"The people against the Taft-Ellender-Wagner Bill are the people with the real State interests," Alessandroni shouted. "I say that the bill has been improperly sold to the Legion."

A certain number of Government-subsidized homes, as provided for under the T-E-W Bill, are needed for veterans who can't afford them, he argued, adding that Senator Robert Taft, co-author of the bill, could hardly be branded socialistic.

In reply, Chairman Cadwallader snorted that the bill would create "bungling bureaucracy and socialistic housing."

Cadwallader was supported by J. D. Sawyer of Ohio, charter member of Cadwallader's committee, who accused the Government of fostering a "conspiracy" against the Legion by lobbying and sending its agents to sabotage the Legion convention. He named Lee Johnson of Washington, D. C., as one of the Federal lobbyists, charging that he was ensconced in luxurious quarters at the Pennsylvania Hotel. (Actually, Lee is with the Public Housing Conference, which has no connection with the Government).

This brought a sharp rejoinder from James D. Hill, also of Washington, who claimed that the true villain behind the scenes was not the Federal Government but the real estate lobby. He called attention to the strange similarity of wording used in the Legion committee's objections to the Taft-Ellender-Wagner Bill and the wording used by the real estate lobby.

"It looks to me," thundered Hill, "as if our committee made up its mind in advance; their objections to the bill look more like excuses than reasons."

NOTE—One real estate group, prior to the last American Legion convention, sent a special bulletin to its members urging them to contact Legion delegates in advance and make sure they voted right when they got to the convention.