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YARDSTICK FOR RENT CONTROL

THE PERSUASIVE arguments for and against continued rent control have been clearly stated by Mr. Fesperman in his two-part series ending today, and need repeating only briefly here.

Those who favor continued control of rents contend that:
1. There is still an acute shortage of housing.

2. The law has many provisions enabling a landlord to obtain an increase in his rentals.

3. Occupants of 35,000 rental units would be adversely affected by lifting controls.

4. There are no controls on new construction.

5. Charlotte is an unusually tight housing market because of its rapid growth, and results of lifting controls in excesses of rent would not hold true here.

Against these arguments, the owners of rental property which is still under control claim that:
1. The market is not tight now, and turnovers and vacancies are high.

2. The law has created gross inequities which penalize certain property owners.

3. Any property owner should be permitted a fair return on the market value of his property.

4. Landlords are not all wealthy. On the contrary, many small owners have suffered hardship.

5. The lifting of controls would bring only reasonable increases in rents.

LEWIS MANEUVER FAILS

JOHN L. LEWIS' thinly-disguised effort to break the solid ranks of the coal producers and negotiate separately with Indiana companies seems at the moment doomed to failure.

He obviously wanted to work out a favorable contract in Indiana, and use it as a lever to pry similar concessions out of other producers. But the producers turned him down.

There is a certain grim justice in this. Mr. Lewis, one of the first labor bosses to fashion the effective industry-wide bargaining weapon and perfect the technique of its use. He is now finding out that he has two edges, and both ways.

The present coal strike hasn't gone well. A late Indiana Summer delayed the approach of cold weather and minimized the tragedy of it, and suffering upon which he preys. The strike, however, closed the voracious blast furnaces which gobble up

POLITICAL MACHINES

ONATHAN DANIELS has an established reputation for political sagacity. He qualifies as an expert. But his statement in Winston-Salem the other day that North Carolina does not want, does not have and will not have a political machine seems too broad a generalization.

North Carolina has had political machines in the past. The late Parulloff Rumrill, whose Senate colleagues and trusted governors, with one exception, for thirty years. The late O. Max Gardner and his friends in the State out politics pretty much to their order from 1928 until 1948.

As a matter of fact, a goodly number of Tar Heels who had no particular fondness for Commissioners of Agriculture W. Kerr Scott helped make him Governor Scott.

A GREAT DRAMATIC TEAM

THE CENTRALIZATION of the American drama in New York is a source of occasional complaint by hinterlanders with a yen to see the legitimate stage has to offer. This week the mourners have a peg to hang their unhappiness upon: they see so little of Lunt and Fontanne.

It has been eight years since the man-wife team which celebrates its 25th anniversary this month has visited Charlotte. They were here in the fall of 1941 with "The Night of the Igniter," a rather serious opera which kept their bright light hidden under the bushel of Robert Sherwood's message.

If that, however, journeyed to New York during the past eight years he would have been treated to a number of Lunt-Fontanne shows. Those who did will testify that it was worth it.

SCHOOLBOOKS IN TEXAS

IN TEXAS they seem still to be doing things in the traditional big way. Having ferreted out one rather ineptly written paragraph in the standard school civics book, in which the author suggests that a government-run postal system is inherently socialistic, and that free education is communistic, Houston authorities have banned the whole book.

The statement itself is such obvious nonsense it seems incredible any competent teacher couldn't see the children straighten a matter of minutes. The remainder of the text is presumably pure as the best strains of Texas cattle, and for that matter is used in both arm schools, where neither soldiers nor sailors seem to have been seriously affected by the offending paragraph.

Other Americans will undoubtedly be struck by the novel idea that Texans do,

Here is the eternal conflict between theory and practice. No one can logically argue that, in a free economy, any one economic group should continue under restrictive government controls after all other groups have been freed. Yet the postwar housing shortage was so great, and housing is so fundamental in the life of any individual or family unit, that the Congress saw fit to continue rent controls.

Rent control, hence, is the law of the land, and its continuation is sanctioned by Congress where supply still fails to meet demand. It is on that basis alone that the question must be answered by the City Council.

If the survey conducted this week by the agents of the Housing Expediter shows there is adequate housing, the controls should be lifted; if it shows that the shortage is still acute, especially among middle and low income groups, the controls should be continued.

If they are to be lifted, it will be better for the Housing Expediter to order them off on his own initiative and to order them off as a favor to the city. If the shortage increases before expediter, he can order controls back into effect. The threat of re-imposition would be a deterrent to any individual who might be tempted to take unreasonable advantage of his tenants.

so much coal. Increasing use of diesel engines decreased the pressure on railroads.

Furthermore, as the Alop brothers point out on the front page of today's News, Mr. Lewis seems to be caught in a high-level strategy maneuver engineered by the White House and pro-Truman labor leaders — that strategy being to settle the steel strike and then use the Fair-Hartley act against the thoroughly disliked mine boss.

It has not always been so. Usually Mr. Lewis' timing is very good indeed. He has led the way in recent strikes, largely because he could force all the operators to their knees at one time.

Now he is on the receiving end of the industry-wide bargaining pressure. The tragedy of it is that this miners and the nation must suffer while he is learning his lesson.

News From The Capital

Indonesian Pact Tribute To Graham

By TOM SCHLESINGER, Charlotte News Special Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — Wednesday the phone was unusually busy in Room 346 of the Senate Office Building. The Dutch and the Indonesian had that day announced agreement on all points affecting transfer of Netherlands sovereignty over Indonesia to the new United States of Indonesia.

People at the Dutch embassy, the state Department and the Voice of America — among others — were calling for comment on the pact. They were calling a man who was repeatedly accused by the American press, they were calling Senator Frank Graham, whose space work last year made possible the changing of Indonesia from a private backyard of Holland into the front yard of the world.

Senator Graham had on numerous occasions pointed out that the national aspiration of the Indonesian people is of special concern to the world because of the strategic international position of their islands.

"These islands are geographically the landmass between two great continents, Asia and Australia, and the gateway between two great oceans, the Indian and the vast Pacific," he told the Senate last April when he was a freshman member of one week.

As if that wasn't enough, he admitted these islands are also a strategic part of some of the world's major air routes which will increase in international importance as the air lines multiply their travel around the world.

He had said also that the unfinished Reville agreement—the basis of the final settlement—remained a sounding board for propaganda against the Western democracies all over the Eastern Hemisphere. With its fulfillment, he said, it could become a charter of freedom for the colonial peoples of the world.

The phone kept ringing, and the office force kept telling voices at the worse end of the wire that the Senator was in North Carolina, but were in the state, they didn't know. It seems that while Dr. Graham was in Raleigh, he carried a few copies of the pact to his headquarters between sessions. Therefore his staff never quite knew when he will be.

The morning he was in Raleigh. When given the news of the settlement, he was happy but still cautious. "I want to read the whole agreement before I make any pronouncement," he said. "I will be in it, and if there are I know where they'll be."

His office here, incidentally, is dragging in between 400 and 600 letters a day in answer to 200,000 forms sent out to rural box owners about the prevented "economic disaster" by invoking the Taft-Hartley Act. This constitutes neglect of duty, the resolution charges.

The resolution further points out that the President could have prevented the economic disaster by invoking the Taft-Hartley Act. This constitutes neglect of duty, the resolution charges.

Now that the steel strike is being settled, the wind has been out of the impeachment plan, but it may still be revived in case John L. Lewis' coal strike sets worse precedents.

NOTE 1—Should the resolution ever reach the floor of the House, it would stand almost no chance of approval.

NOTE 2—Gwin is the Congressman who mailed out 900,000 franked letters last year containing a list of poeches against public housing, Federal aid to education and rent control. He has been the chief Congressional negotiator for the Foundation for Economic Education, funded by some of the nation's largest corporations.

Financing Supreme Court

IN Washington, where hotasses keep careful tabs on who's feeding with whom, it would be an unforgeable bond to continue the identity of the Supreme Court's funding justices, the honorable Hugo Black and Robert Jackson.

"Want Me To Help Unify You Again?"



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That's exactly what happened the other day at no

Marquis Childs

The Squeeze Stays On

FRANKFORT, Germany — True evidence grows that in every man, both big and little, there are countries in the Russian orbit are carrying out the mandate of Moscow in suppressing dissent. It is that might offer even the most remote potential resistance. The conspicuous example, partly because American correspondents still in France report at least some of the news, is Czechoslovakia.

But in varying degree the same thing is happening in Poland, Rumania, Hungary and Raria. All contacts with the West are being closed off in more accelerated and ruthless fashion.

American newspapers are being excluded. My wife and I have been denied visas for Poland and Czechoslovakia, although two years ago I was permitted to visit Warsaw and Prague. It is not clear what the way in which that most-dreaded of cities was being rebuilt.

Western diplomats and businessmen have been forbidden to drive any distance east of the capital. The caption reads that, as a result of Russian troop movements westward from the Russian-Polish frontier, however, it may be a part of the war of nerves.

The great stress is put by Moscow on Czechoslovakia. It is the Cominform's most effective agents, and it is in talk with me something like this: "The example of Czechoslovakia will be the most important demonstration to the world that a highly organized industrial state also can become a Communist state. This will mean more than the agricultural states of Rumania or Hungary."

WRONG INTERPRETATION? It appears that Mr. Belmont was a great error in your interpretation of Czechoslovakia. You illustrate the process of the squeeze which has suffered from the adjustment of essential commodities.

Robert C. Ruark

My Head's Whirling

I TRY real hard to understand the reasons of organized labor. I know my knotty little skill and bend over backward, but I just can't understand why you are a dirty lousy scab laborer, or maybe even a reactionary capitalist, but I just can't understand why you run into an example that makes the name of understanding doubly tough.

I have a grime pig for the labor boss. He is a dirty lousy scab laborer, and he is nearly perfect. He is a dirty lousy scab laborer, and he is nearly perfect. He is a dirty lousy scab laborer, and he is nearly perfect.

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