THE CHARLOTTE NEWS

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WHAT HAPPENED AT LOWELL?

RECENTLY City Treasurer L. L. Ledbetter quoted a set of figures, gathered by the Detroit Bureau of Municipal Research, which indicated that Charlotte's adjusted City-County tax rate is substantially lower than the rates in many U. S. cities of similar size, the inference being that the City could issue a big batch of public improvement bonds and still have a tax rate that was low *comparatively*.

Mr. Ledbetter specifically pointed to Lowell, Mass., with a population of 101,389 in 1940, almost the same as Charlotte's. Lowell's adjusted city-county tax rate in 1948 was $5.28 per $100 valuation while Charlotte's was only $1.86. Utica, N. Y., with a rate of $4.49, was also cited as a comparison.

Publication of the Detroit Bureau's figures prompted a letter to THE NEWS from Walter W. Gayle of Charlotte, vice-president of the Saco-Lowell Shops, in which he said, "Let's see what happened at Lowell.

"Well, in 1928, according to Bragdon, Lord & Nagle Company's official American Textile Directory, the population of Lowell was 107,978—I guess this is the 1920 count. They had in Lowell 69 textile mills and related industries, with a spindlesge of 646,376.

"In 1948, according to Davidson's Blue Book, Lowell had a population of 101,389, apparently the 1940 census figure. They had 47 textile mills and related industries, having lost 21 during this period. They had 280,542 spindles, having lost 365,830 or over 50 per cent of the spindlesge they had in 1928.

"At Lowell they have magnificent water power and many of these industries had power plants and rights which they gave up when the machinery was moved from some of those mills. The tax rate was still so high that it was cheaper to dynamite or tear down some of their vacated buildings than to hold onto them with the hope of selling them. No industry wanted to get into this tax-ridden city.

"Utica was mentioned. I find in the same directories that in 1928 Utica had 44 textile mills and related industries. In 1948 I can count but 23."

In that same period, Charlotte's population zoomed from 46,338 in 1920 to 100,899 in 1940, and will probably hit 135,000 in 1950. This rapid growth in population reflects an enormous expansion of business and industry of all types, a process which is continuing today without let-up.

There were, probably, other reasons why Lowell and Utica lost some of their industry. But even if all other things were equal, the great gulf between local tax rates alone would give any heavy industry in Charlotte a great competitive advantage over an identical industry in Lowell or Utica.

Most authorities agree that the South's best chance for greater prosperity lies in industrialization. We cannot, however, attract industries but will repel them if we let our local and state governments recklessly run up tax rates to oppressive levels.

JUSTICE, MOSCOW STYLE

GENERALLY the masterminds of the Politburo are uncannily shrewd in planning international propaganda; at times, however, their complete isolation from the rest of the world leads them to commit errors as gross as any ever committed by Adolph Hitler.

By achieving an immediate end — the arrest, mock trial, and conviction of Josef Cardinal Mindszenty of Hungary — they have succeeded in uniting the whole civilized world against Communist terrorism. By jailing the Cardinal for life, they have made a martyr out of him whose name will become a rallying point for those who believe in freedom of religion.

Reaction to the life sentence imposed on Cardinal Mindszenty was immediate, and strong. World religious and lay leaders joined together in denouncing this obvious effort to smash the Roman Catholic Church in Hungary by destroying its leadership. Cardinal Mindszenty may have been indiscreet in permitting himself to become embroiled in affairs of the state, but nowhere in the trumped up evidence was there any real proof that he had been guilty of conspiring to overthrow the Hungarian Government.

The whole affair was carried off in a typical Communist fashion. From the very first attacks against the Cardinal it became obvious that his fate had been predetermined by Moscow. The various alleged confessions, including his reported statements on the witness stand, were in sharp contrast to the denials he made before his arrest, and added credence to reports that the Soviets have found a way to destroy the will of their victims to resist.

Hungary, and Moscow, have won the first round of this battle. In so doing, they have arrayed against themselves the powerful forces of liberty and justice throughout the world.

HOOVER'S NEW ROLE

IF AND WHEN the Government reorganization proposal becomes an accomplished fact, the nation will owe a tremendous debt of gratitude to a man who once failed an assignment—Former President Herbert Hoover.

Had Mr. Hoover shown the same aggressiveness, courage and forthrightness as President he has recently displayed as chairman of the Hoover Commission, this nation would have been spared much of the terror of the Great Depression, terror which came because the Government, under Hoover, was weak and vacillating and unwilling to act decisively.

If he lost prestige then, he has recovered it in his latest public service job. He was not content merely to direct the big commission in its mammoth survey of overlapping and duplication in the Federal Government; he took the leadership in carrying the battle to the Congress, showing himself more effective in many ways than the man now in the White House in pushing the reorganization plan along.

This week he appeared before the Senate Expenditures Committee to denounce "propagandists" who were trying to get the Senate to exempt certain agencies from the reorganization program. "If Congress is going to respond to that kind of pressure, we might as well quit tomorrow. It is the end of reorganization," he thundered.

Mr. Hoover explained that most past reorganizations had failed because the Congress itself had denied the President adequate authority to shuffle the agencies around and cut off political deadwood.

Shortly thereafter the House virtually granted his request by fighting off a long list of amendments, most of them offered by Republicans, which would have exempted one agency or another from the reorganization. The House bill will give President Truman authority to streamline some 1,800 Government agencies as he wishes, subject only to Congressional veto in 60 days. Specifically exempted were the national defense establishment, Interstate Commerce Commission, Securities and Exchange Commission, Federal Reserve Board, National Mediation Board, Railway Retirement Board, and Railway Adjustment Board. Provision was made for reorganization of those agencies in separate bills.

If the Senate goes along with the House, the President will have, for the first time, the authority to do the big job of pruning agencies and slashing at inefficiency and duplication. And it is important that the Senate acquiesce, for Mr. Hoover estimates that a proper reorganization will not only improve efficiency, but will save a whopping $3,000,000 a year.

Unless the President has such authority he cannot be held responsible for failure to act. It can be safely granted, for the Congress still will have a final veto if it decides any part of the reorganization is detrimental to the nation.

From The Raleigh News & Observer

IS IT AMAZING?

IN a statement made when he ordered a Justice of the Peace to resign because of improper behavior in office, Superior Court Judge Charles L. Coggin said the J. P. system is "bad and it ought to be changed." He added: "This case shows that the system should be cleaned up and it's up to the Legislature to do something about it."

Of course, it is bad. And, of course, it is up to the Legislature to do something about it. But there is nothing new about the notorious quality of much J. P. justice in North Carolina. The sad fact, however, is that the J. P.s and little crooked constables, who help the worst magistrates exact profits out of hapless little people in the name of justice, are too close to political power and political organization in the counties and precincts of the state.

In Legislature after Legislature, the worst Justices of the Peace have shown that although they deserved the contempt of the State, they also had power in the Legislature. As a result, in the unreformed system which continues the best Justices of the Peace (and there are some excellent ones) have been denied the dignity these lower courts should possess, while some of the worst Justices of the Peace (and there are plenty of them) have been able to prey upon the poor in a process which makes fees more important than justice.

Of course, the Judge is right. But also, of course, the extortion, the fee grabbing and all the other evils of the present system will go on until some amazing Legislature shows some amazing courage and deals intelligently with this ancient mess at the foundations of our system of justice in this state.

Is this an amazing Legislature?

There is some sort of affection that grows up between the county newspaper and its readers—near and distant — that approaches love. If I were a millionaire, with oodles of money, I would run a country newspaper just for the fun of it. — *Grenada County (Miss.) Weekly*

. . . Not Much Change In Temperature . . . .

James Marlow

Over A Barrel

WASHINGTON

CONGRESS is over a barrel, and it's a tough one, trying to write a new labor law to control big strikes that might damage the public health or welfare.

Anything less than going the limit in the new law will mean at best only a half-measure that sometime may cause a great deal of trouble.

But neither Congress nor unions nor employers seem to want any part of the extreme measure, because it would put a real limit on the freedom of unions and employers to bargain.

This would be the extreme step: The law would let the President forbid, completely and permanently, a strike that he felt should not be permitted to occur.

But this would be unfair to labor, since a strike is its greatest weapon, unless there was an equally harsh crackdown on the employer. So the real crackdown on both would mean: No strike at all and compulsory arbitration. That is:

Once the Government ordered no strike, it would set up a board to hear the argument of the union and the employer.

The board, having done that, would give a decision. Both sides would have to accept it.

But, to be fair to the union such a law would have to make any decision by the board retroactive. For example:

A union wants to strike Jan. 1. The Government stops it and sets up an arbitration board. On May 1, five months later, the board gives its decision: A raise of 10 cents an hour for the union.

So the boss couldn't give the raise, starting May 1. He'd have to make it retroactive, a raise of 10 cents an hour, dating back to Jan. 1 when the Government said the union couldn't strike.

But a union wants no ban on its right to strike. And neither union nor employers wants compulsory arbitration. They don't want any Government board telling them what they must do.

And Congress is reluctant to go so far in handling strikes, for various reasons: It does mean a limit on freedom, and unions and employers would put on terrific pressure against such a law.

So Congress is faced with the job of trying to work out something which won't go to the extreme and at the same time act as a kind of brake on a big strike.

It may try one of these devices: power to delay a strike or only stop it temporarily. For example:

A law giving the President authority to ask a union not to strike for 30 or 60 days after the date on which it wanted to strike. The idea of the delay would be to give the union and employer just that much more time to reach an agreement.

This law, although not giving the President power to order no strike for 30 or 60 days, would, in effect, be the same thing. A union almost certainly would agree to the President's request for a delay.

But after that time, if there was no agreement, the union would be free to strike without any written power in law for the President to halt the strike.

If it was a big enough strike, and really was crippling the country, the President certainly would step in and stop it, whether he had specific power in the law or not.

So such a law—by failing to give the President extraordinary power to forbid the strike indefinitely or permanently — would be ducking the main issue—a big strike—if it ever occurred.

Or, Congress might give the President power, through a court order (injunction) to forbid the strike for 30 or 80 or 120 days and then leave a union free to strike afterwards.

But suppose the strike went on after that 120-day delay and was ruining the country. What then? Then the President, without written authority in law, might try to stop it.

But such a law, too, would be ducking the main issue: how to stop a strike from crippling the country? That's why the Taft-Hartley law provided no real solution to the problem of a big crippling strike.

It allowed the Government to stop such a strike for 80 days. And then the union was free to strike.

But labor now is in a more settled condition after the war. No labor crises are in sight. And Congress almost surely will look for a solution short of the extreme.

People's Platform

City Dweller Sounds Off

LEXINGTON

Editors, THE NEWS:

I FEEL impelled to thank The News for the Dick Young article today (Feb. 2).

For a long time, as a matter of fact nearly ever since I came back to North Carolina in 1943, I have been much opposed to the coddling of the farmers in this state. I have been conscious that the farmers of North Carolina have been riding high at the urban dwellers' expense. Not until I read Mr. Young's article did I realize it is as bad as it is.

I have been getting madder and madder ever since the Governor came out with the proposal that we build hard surfaced roads to the farmers' doors, by taxing us another cent on each gallon of gasoline. Now to learn that the poor old farmer pays such a small proportion of the taxes, makes me see red.

To hear the farmer and his pussyfooting political friends tell it, he has no roads, no nothing. One would think, to hear them tell it, the highway system was built for and used by us urbanites alone, and that the highway system does not even remotely touch the rural sections. If for one am opposed to the dominance of the state by farmers. I think this dominance has gone on long enough. I am for political action on the part of us urbanites to unseat this farmer dictatorship, or at least get our share of the control.

I believe we are numerically powerful enough and are intelligent enough to remedy the intolerable situation. I think the next few years, we can live live in the towns and cities should work unceasingly to make our political power felt in 1952.

Who'll join up? Let's organize an association of urbanites. Let's see if we can do something about the farmer paying 3.3 per cent of the state income tax, and a fraction of the total state tax load, including the gasoline tax.

I wonder how many city fellers have written to their state representatives about the proposed additional one cent tax on gasoline? Eight cents is gonna be a lotta tax on gas.

—B. A. HAWLEY.

World Federation Can Work

CHARLOTTE

Editors, THE NEWS:

MR. A. W. BLACK recently contributed an argument against world government. I would like to point out a few differences between his thinking and mine.

Mr. Black states that man is an individual preferring to go his own way whenever possible. Nations being made up of individuals like to do the same thing. Nations will go their own way until some common interest draws them together, which isn't world federation.

These are general statements about people and nations but are not, in my opinion, an argument against world federation. Man does like to go his own way but when going his own way interferes with the rights of his neighbor, the law requires him to stop. We gave up our individual right to settle disputes when the majority of us quit carrying six-shooters.

Nations, too, like to go their own way, like what they can get, and fight to settle their disputes just like individuals used to do. There is no law between nations, no courts, and therefore no way to settle quarrels except going to battle.

Modern war has certainly made it the common interest of every nation to help prevent another world conflict. To make war in the future a nation will risk destroying itself and the enemy. There will be no winners in a future atomic war.

Mr. Black states that no political system with or without law can prevent a relapse into military hostilities. Such a statement about the future relations between nations is purely a matter of opinion, the truth of which has yet to be demonstrated. Mankind has not tried world government with adequate powers to prevent war.

Now another argument: He states that laws are not enforced, they are observed or they don't work. Police and armies are not big enough to enforce any law if all people were determined to disregard it. What does that statement prove? If all the states in our Federal Government decided to pull out and each go on their own, the United States would be disorganized. Here in this country we have a group of people living with the majority observing the law but some breaking it. If the law is broken, a superior force goes after the breaker. The point is that the majority of people back up the Government and the law.

A world government would be made up of nations willing to back it up, and give up their rights to make war. A system of settling disputes between countries would be worked out. Of course, if all the nations composing it decided to pull out, there would be no world government.

—JOHN M. SAUNDERS.

From The Frying Pan

SOUTHERN PINES

Editors, THE NEWS:

WITH the N. C. Motor Vehicle Inspection law as bad as it is, now comes along Sepator Penny, who would lift the N. C. motorist from the frying pan and place him in the fire by leaving us to the tender mercies (?) of the garage mechanics. God forbid.

—CALVIN H. BURKHEAD.

The People's Platform is available to any reader who cares to mount it. Communications should be less than 300 words, typewritten if possible, and on only one side of the paper. Libel and obscenity will be deleted—otherwise anything goes. Each letter must be signed. — *Editors,* THE NEWS.

Marquis Childs

The Good Lives After

WASHINGTON

THE good that men do is not always, in the Shakespearean phrase, interred with their bones. It does often live after them and the light of it shines far beyond the little span allotted to each man.

The late Laurence Duggan gave himself in selfish devotion in many ways. But his chief interest after he left the Dept. of State was the Institute of International Education, of which he was president as his father, Stephen Duggan, had been before him.

At the time that tragedy overtook him and cut off his life at the age of 43, Larry Duggan was starting to raise additional money for the Institute. Now his friends have formed a committee to contribute a fund in his name to carry on the work in which he so deeply believed. As Archibald MacLeish, chairman of the committee, put it:

"It was not in Larry's nature to leave a job unfinished . . . Such a fund will enable all of us acting together to achieve for him some, at least, of the tasks he would have accomplished had he lived."

The Institute of International Education is a private organization that serves as a bridge, not between government and government, but between the peoples of one country and the peoples of another country. It does this by providing funds for American students to go abroad and for foreign students and teachers to come to our colleges and universities.

The last is especially important. There is no way of measuring the profound and far-reaching influence of American education and American experience on the thousands of foreign students who have come to our shores in recent decades. One young man who returns to his native land to take a position of leadership with a favorable impression of American educational standards is worth no one can gauge how many millions of words of propaganda by government.

After the Boxer Rebellion in China, the government in Washington wisely decreed that the indemnity to be paid by China to the United States should go to finance Chinese students in this country. Several thousand Chinese availed themselves of the fund before it was exhausted.

Incidentally, Chinese students in this country now found themselves in a difficult plight as the consequence of the tragedy in their homeland. It has been difficult or impossible for them to get American dollars through their government, and under U. S. immigration laws they are not permitted to earn any money. A ship is now being fitted out to send back to China those who have completed some phase of their education.

PIONEERS

Besides the foreign students who have come here, other thousands have been educated in American schools abroad. That is true particularly in the Near East, where several institutions have done pioneering work.

One of them is Athens College, headed by the redoubtable Homer Davis. At the end of the war Davis returned to Athens, and in the face of seemingly insuperable obstacles he got the college started again and repaired at least part of the damage done by the Germans. Davis is now in this country to persuade donors to continue their support for the college.

The comfortable assumption, of course, is that the government is taking care of everything over there. Billions are being sent abroad and surely that relieves the individual citizen of any responsibility.

But if it is all left to government, then we shall lose something of infinite value; something that has grown out of American idealism and American character. Expressions like the Friendship Train to Europe and now, in reciprocation, the French thank-you train show how deep is the impulse of the individual to reach across the limitations and formalities of government.

"At the hour when the Gratitude Train is leaving Paris for Havre and the United States, I feel the need to tell you what the French people want to express to your great country by this symbolic train.

"To you Americans who have done so much, given so much to the children, the aged, and all the people of France, it is the affectionate thanks of a grateful people to your country. This train, made up of cars that your GIs know well, is a true token of our affection, of our friendship to all of your 40 states. Each one of these cars from France will tell those of you who know it, that we do not forget. And to those who have never come to our land, may it bring a message from the people of France to all the people of the USA.

"In the dawn of 1949, I see in this gesture of friendship more than an omen, more than a message. I see in it the pledge that men can love and understand each other when they silence their self-interest and only listen to their hearts. The USA and France give to humanity and the world a magnificent example that could come only from within them.

"The idea of this friendship train, in return for the many, many trains sent us by the USA, is due to the French veterans, the women, the young who fought and suffered and those who suffer still. They are the foundation stone of this pledge of friendship."

Diplomatic Pouch

THE United States has sent secret notes to France and Britain urging them to agree to leave 175 factories in Germany instead of removing them for allied reparations. . . . The top Nationalists are planning to desert Chiang's sinking ship. T. V. Soong, Chiang's brother-in-law, has informed U. S. Ambassador Stuart he wants to come to the United States. . . . The State Dept. has decided to recognize the new government of Paraguay which seized power ten days ago, even though this was the sixth Paraguayan revolution in thirteen months. Actually, the State Dept's Latin American experts believe the new government is controlled by civilians instead of the military, therefore represents a reversal of the military trend in Latin America. . . . Don't count Bob Lovett, the former Undersecretary of State, out of the diplomatic scene yet. Influential Republicans have launched an undercover drive to get him appointed American ambassador to France, replacing Jefferson Caffery. Lovett's friends believe Truman could talk Lovett out of his desire to return to private life—if he wanted to.

Drew Pearson's Merry-Go-Round

Barkley Rejects Invitation To Speak

WASHINGTON

DIXIECRAT Governor J. Strom Thurmond, who was cold-shouldered by President Truman at the inauguration, has now been snubbed again—this time by Vice-President Barkley. . . . Invited to address a meeting of South Carolina mayors this week, Barkley was all set to accept. But at the last minute Thurmond, a governor, decided to attend the mayors' meeting and also asked Barkley to be his guest at the Governor's Mansion. . . . This put the VP on the spot. So the other day on the Senate floor, Barkley beckoned the two South Carolina Senators, Burnet Maybank and Olin Johnston, up to the Vice-President's rostrum, explained confidentially that he wouldn't stay with Thurmond but didn't want to create an incident. The best solution, Barkley decided, was not to go to Columbia at all.

Secretary of Labor Maurice Tobin is worried about a long and possibly bloody coal strike this Summer. John L. Lewis's contract with the coal operators expires in May. . . . However, because of mild Winter weather in the East, coal stocks are higher than in years, and the operators know that if there is no strike the price of coal will go down. Therefore, to keep the price of coal up a long strike will be necessary. Also, the Labor Dept. suspects that some of the bigger coal operators want a long strike in order to squeeze out marginal independents. . . . Secretary Tobin is hoping both sides will put patriotism above profits but he has his fingers crossed.

General MacArthur has told Secretary of the Army Royall that he has ironclad proof the Communists in Japan are financing their activities through black-market operations. MacArthur says he has evidence the Communists are smuggling a Russian-made medicine for curing stomach diseases into Japan and selling it illegally at fantastic profits. . . . Also, they're selling newsprint which the U. S. Army allocated to the Japanese Communist newspaper "Red Flag." MacArthur reported that several top-ranking Japanese Communists are involved. . . . Royall has told MacArthur to crack down on the Communists whenever he believes best.

Although the Navy was sharply criticized for revealing its proposed strength down to the last plane and ship, Secretary of Defense Forrestal's office has been pressuring the Air Force also to publish its secret strength. This was bluntly suggested to the Air Force by Forrestal's budget chief, W. J. McNeil—who happens to be a reserve admiral. The Air Force turned him down, however, on the grounds of danger to national security.

Congress Gets Diplomatic Preview

SECRETARY OF STATE ACHESON is taking no chances with Congress. As undersecretary he had his fingers burned a couple of times because he didn't tip off Congress in advance about the Administration's most important bills. But it's different now.

That's why Acheson and his new Assistant Secretary of State, Dean Rusk, conferred secretly twice this week with key members of the Senate Foreign Relations and House Foreign Affairs Committees.

At one hush-hush meeting, Acheson gave Vandenberg a complete fill-in on the negotiations for a North Atlantic alliance and urged him to get behind the treaty when it comes up in the Senate. Vandenberg replied he would have to study it carefully first before making any commitments.

Acheson also pleaded with Vandenberg to support the Administration's bill to appropriate sixteen million dollars to relieve the plight of 750,000 Arab refugees from the Palestine fighting. Acheson said the Arabs, crowded into filthy camps, are dying at the rate of 50 a day. It is absolutely essential, he said, for the United States to do what it can to help because the American reputation in the Arab world is at stake.

Vandenberg replied that he would be glad to throw his weight behind the bill.

Meanwhile, Assistant Secretary Rusk had gone up to Capitol Hill to talk secretly with Congressman Sol Bloom, Democratic chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee, about the same thing. The State Dept. has especially worried about Bloom's opposition to the bill to aid the Arabs, because he had indicated in a speech he might oppose the idea. However, Rusk found Bloom quite reasonable on all points, and now feels he will vote for the bill.

French Gratitude

DURING wars, allied nations pull together, work together, fight together—of necessity. They cannot afford to do otherwise. After wars, people sometimes drift apart. After wars, it is easy to bicker over the spoils of war, over the terms of peace.

That the French people want to work at peace just as hard as they worked at war is attested by the 49 boxcars of the Gratitude Train now fanning out to all parts of the USA. The sentiment behind that train is expressed more eloquently than anything that can be written in this column by a letter of a wounded French veteran, who says: