THE CHARLOTTE NEWS

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SATURDAY, APRIL 30, 1949

BLUEPRINT FOR A LABOR BILL

WHAT STARTED out as an effort by the Administration to repeal the Taft-Hartley Act and restore the basic Wagner Act, with minor variations, has become so involved in parliamentary procedures that it is virtually impossible for the average person to keep himself informed.

The details of the Administration measure, which bears the name of Rep. Lesinski, have been amply publicized. So have the provisions of the Woods Bill, which would retain most of the Taft-Hartley features. But there are already reports that the Administration is willing to compromise, and make changes in the Lesinski Bill,in order to obtain the approval of the House.

The situation is further complicated in the Senate where there are also two bills: one identical to the Lesinski proposals, the other advanced by Senators Taft and Ives which would modify the Taft-Hartley Act. There will probably be compromises in the Senate as well.

Finally, after due deliberation in both houses, perhaps including a conference committee report, a new labor bill will be forthcoming. Not until then will the people know whether it is good or bad.

Nevertheless, there is yet an opportunity to reinstate, simply and coherently, the basic form of a labor measure which will be more tolerant than the Taft-Hartley Act and more objective than the Wagner Act. If, by doing so, *The News* is able to encourage its readers to pursue their own thoughts, and then notify their elected representatives of their opinions, some service will have been rendered.

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IT WAS the policy of the New Deal to make labor unions an instrumentality of the Federal Government and vice-versa. That was implicit in the Wagner Act, and would become so again were the Congress to adopt the Lesinski Bill.

The right of working men to form a union and to join it of their own accord without hindrance by management has been firmly established. On the other hand, the right of men to work without being compelled to join a union should be held inviolate, and in that respect it is essential that new labor legislation contain adequate provisions against the misuse of union power to coerce workers into joining in order to enjoy employment.

State laws limiting open or union shops should be recognized and allowed, as they have been in the Taft-Hartley law.

There should be, by all means, union responsibility under contracts. If a corporation violates a contract, it is legally and financially responsible; if labor does likewise, it should likewise be held accountable.

Unions, like management, should be subject to State and Federal anti-monopoly laws and to the laws regarding illegal boycotts. If unions form combinations in restraint of trade, or enter into conspiracies to restrain trade, they should be amenable to prosecution just as corporations and other individuals are.

Collective bargaining is a good thing and should be preserved. The weapon of the strike should be left to labor. But mass picketing and the use of physical force by picket lines to prevent entry and exit should be explicitly forbidden.

The Government should retain the power to deal with management and labor situations which might precipitate a national emergency. The Government has that authority as far as industry is concerned already, and can take over facilities and operate them. Government cannot, of course, compel men to work against their will. At the same time, if they refuse to work at the instigation, direct or indirect, of a labor organization to an extent that the national welfare is jeopardized, the officials of that labor organization should be subject to injunctive procedures when initiated by the Government itself.

Jurisdictional strikes should be prohibited in order that innocent third parties might be protected.

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THIS BLUEPRINT does not, of course, attempt to set forth the organizational framework for administering a labor law. It merely outlines what this newspaper believes to be a set of fair and just principles which, applied equally to management and labor, would restore harmony in labor relations and protect both management and labor from unfair practices and abuse of power by either.

It is easy to judge both labor and management by the worst examples of each. We must constantly guard against this.

The role of the Federal Government in labor relations should be that of an impartial arbiter and protector, partial to neither but zealous in the preservation of the rights of both. And any new labor law adopted by this Congress should strive for that objective.

FARMER AMONG FRIENDS

ANY hopes that urban residents of North Carolina might get for their worn-out streets any part of their rightful share of the State's highway money were killed with the announcement of the new Highway Commission appointees.

According to the Associated Press, nine of the ten men on the Commission have "farm backgrounds" just like that of Governor Scott. That, of course, is why they were appointed.

These ten men will supervise the spending of highway revenue estimated at $122,342,218 for the next biennium, not including any Federal matching funds which have been totaling several millions a year.

If the $200 million road bond proposal passes, they will also administer that whopping amount, plus the extra $7 million dollars a year from a simultaneous increase of one-cent on the gasoline tax.

Coming from "farm backgrounds" and appointed by a farmer-Governor, it's reasonably simple to figure out where all those millions will go.

Not that we don't need better roads in the rural areas. We do need them, and badly; but not to the extent that virtually all regular highway revenue, plus $200 million in bonds, should be poured out on every cowpath in the State, loading us with the biggest bonded indebtedness in history, an indebtedness we will still be paying off after the roads are worn out.

This year the State Highway Commission allocated about $1 million to its highways which run through the towns and cities. If the bond issue is approved, the Commissioners will spend in four years one rural roads, from bond money alone, as much money as they will spend in the cities *in the next 200 years* at the present rate.

Governor Scott claims that North Carolina is "predominantly" rural. He uses the wrong adverb. It is *exclusively* rural, as far as State services are concerned.

TALE OF FOUR CITIES

SOME of the state papers have been tossing darts at each other about the relative apathy of their voters in the primaries this week.

In Greensboro, with a potential vote of some 30,000, only 4,996 voters—about one-sixth of the registration—turned out for a non-partisan primary. *The Greensboro Daily News* boasted that it was a "record-breaking high."

In Raleigh, with a potential vote of some 24,000, only 6,225 voters—about one-fourth of the registration—took part in that city's primary. The *Raleigh News & Observer* claimed a higher voter participation than Greensboro, but described both as "shockingly low."

In High Point, 3,578 voters took part in a Democratic city primary. The *High Point Enterprise* said, "We hasten to say that we are by no means proud of the High Point vote . . . But at least it was only half as bad as that in Greensboro."

For the enlightenment of those journals, we offer the Charlotte city primary figure. Of the 30,714 persons duly registered and qualified, 23,646 of them — or *just under 77 per cent* — took part in Monday's primary.

It was a marvelous demonstration of democracy at work, and in comparison with Greensboro, Raleigh and High Point, is an outstanding record. Even so, we cannot be completely satisfied; for there are at least 25,000 to 30,000 other potential voters who did not get on the books in the new city-wide registration just completed.

All of this is by way of reminding those 30,714 registered voters here that a run-off election for the seven Council positions will be held here on Tuesday. Since the Council is the real governing body of the city, it is of great importance for the voters to turn out Tuesday with the same interest and enthusiasm they showed in the primary. By so doing, the Charlotte City Government will be a real majority government, not one elected by a minority.

From The Charleston (S. C.) News & Courier

FLUORINATION MAKES FURYONATION

IN Charlotte, capitalistic city of the other Carolina, citizens were reported in furious temper and raging that the fluorination of their water supply was killing their goldfish, staining clothes, ruining photographic materials, "tasting awful", and then their water department reported that "not a sniff of the stuff" had been used at the time of the uproar of the citizens.

The obvious explanation is that since these Mecklenburg independents ceased to be "dry", (they voted in whisky stores some months ago), they had not been indulging in water but out of curiosity began to sip it when they heard about the fluorination. Naturally, any kind of water to them tasted awful, and they fell into spasms of furyonation.

If the Mecklenburgers would be on the safe side they would import their water, as formerly they imported their fire-water, from Fort Mill, York, Lancaster and Rock Hill.

'You're Just A Bureaucrat Living Offa The Public'

The Party Comes First

The Unwritten Message

By ARTHUR KROCK
(In The New York Times)

WASHINGTON

THE House and Senate definitely will not assemble in joint session to hear the following message from President Truman—or a comparable one from any President—until Americans, like Macaulay's ancient Romans, "all are for the State; and none is for the party":

"To the Congress of the United States:

"This is to announce revision of the time schedules of some legislation I have proposed to you in the past and a change of opinion on my part toward some other legislation I have urged. But it is also to reiterate the beliefs and the principles which, I truly believe, have always formed my political philosophy.

"Times and conditions change, and wise and patriotic public servants change with them. I make no claim to great wisdom, but I have always sought to be a patriot. This devotion to the best interests of our country, whatever flaws of judgment may have impeded its objectives, is what brings me before you today.

"I stand by the promises I made to the people who elected me President in November, 1948, and by the programs I have submitted to the Congress for action at this session. But I am now convinced I have attempted to effect all these pledges too rapidly for our economy safely to absorb them. I am also convinced that no responsible legislative body, sincerely divided on the wisdom of doing some of these things at any time, should be expected to act on them all in a matter of months.

* * *

"I HAVE further concluded that they are right who say my election constituted no popular 'mandate' for all the details of major legislation my spokesmen have enumerated. For instance, no analysis of the vote of 1948 for the President and members of the Congress can reasonably establish a mandate for the Administration's labor relations bill, or for the repeal of certain public protections in the Taft-Hartley Act. So I have asked those who stand with me to cease talking about these imaginary mandates.

"I continue to urge prompt action on the bills offered by my supporters for housing, for equal civil rights of all citizens, and for a rise in the minimum wage. But, with respect to an expansion of the social security pay roll tax, the Federal health and education programs of the Administration, and the farm plan devised by the Secretary of Agriculture, it is now clear that, with the billions we must appropriate to protect our national security—allocated to the armed services, our North Atlantic allies, Greece and Turkey and the European Co-operation Administration—we shall have a rising annual deficit for the foreseeable future if we legislate all these social-economic programs at the present time. The mere fact that the Administration cannot estimate the present or eventual cost of the farm and health programs justifies any responsible member of Congress in the present circumstances to ask that they be deferred.

"I withdraw my request for $4 billions in new taxes. This is because the economic condition and prospect on which I based it have changed from inflationary to deflationary. I wish also to revise my requests for certain government controls of our economy, which were founded on the same mistaken theory of my advisers. Our task is to guard the nation from anything beyond a reasonable adjustment of the prices-wages-supply levels attained in the immediate post-war period. When these are adjusting themselves downward, new taxes and restored controls could only stimulate a deflationary trend.

"But Government revenues must be increased if we are to forestall a succession of growing deficits. My hope continue that not long hence will appear the outlines of the durable world peace for which I have labored above all things, and I am encouraged to believe that the peace itself will thereafter soon appear. Yet we cannot manage government on a hope, however promising. Therefore, until it materializes, we must decrease the drain on the public revenues by retrenchment in the Federal establishment. I have directed the Bureau of the Budget to effect a 10 per cent reduction in administrative costs, and I have decided that essential functions and the welfare of our citizens do not require one public employee for every six and a half families. Congress can, and I trust will, make this retrenchment possible by its own attitude toward appropriations and toward the proposals of the Commission headed by former President Hoover that promote economy and efficiency.

* * *

"IF it be the will of Providence, I shall continue in office until January 20, 1953. Should my hopes of durable peace be realized in season, there will be ample time for me to renew my vigorous support of those parts of my domestic program which the economic facts of life in the United States and the world have impelled me reluctantly to lay aside for the present. I believe in this legislation devoutly, and, assisted by the strength which the improved situation will lend to its intrinsic merit and public need, I will then insist on prompt and favorable action by the Congress.

"But first things must be put first in the frame of our national capacity. This I have attempted in all candor to do today. Foremost among these is the pursuit of the Administration's foreign policy, which, except in China, has been markedly successful and which failed in China chiefly because of the weakness and worse of the Nationalist Government.

"In good will, and with respect for the sincerity and patriotism of one another, let us go forward to a greater future."

Quote, Unquote

Spring is here. Summer is coming and pretty soon now the little boy of the family will have a daily series of new cuts and bruises on his dirty, bare feet to show when company comes.—**Greenville (S. C.) Piedmont.**

There were many fascinating gadgets on the "Train of Tomorrow", but none was more intriguing than those glass pistols with colored pellets of candy that used to be featured on the "train of yesterday."—**Lexington (Ky.) Herald.**

Stewart Alsop

Time For A Change

TOKYO

IN the early days of the occupation, General of the Army Douglas MacArthur was wont to remark to visitors that after about the third year, any military occupation begins to collapse of its own weight. Japan today, in the fourth year of the occupation, is a tribute to MacArthur's prescience.

The end of military government of this unhappy nation should now be urgently considered, if grave future consequences are to be avoided. This is so, and MacArthur was right, because the course of all military occupations is determined by three simple, displeasing rules.

Rule one: Military men, with plenty of good will but no sort of training for the job, are unfitted to control indefinitely all the delicate, infinitely complicated mechanisms which govern the lives of millions of people. A brigadier general arrived here recently and was subjected to the usual "indoctrination lecture" on the political and economic problems of Japan. Half way through, he slapped the table and cried, "By God, sir, a soldier's job is to shoot guns! What's all this damn nonsense about?"

The general was not typical of the many hardworking and intelligent officers here. But he was right. A soldier's job is to shoot guns. When soldiers are asked, instead, to govern a nation, the result is apt to be the sort of self-strangulation illustrated by one civilian's frank remark to this reporter: "They put me ten thousand a year in this section because I'm the only man who knows how to unravel the Army's red tape."

Rule two: Military occupation brings into being an alien, privileged class, visibly enjoying all the perquisites of incomparable wealth and unlimited power, with immeasurably pernicious results. Nothing is more striking in Japan today than the heavy colonial atmosphere. It is not merely the contrast in living conditions. Army regulations are necessarily geared to the most irresponsible nineteen-year-old G. I., but they apply equally to all Americans, civilian and military.

DON'T DONT DON'T

It is illegal to give a Japanese a cigarette, to visit a Japanese friend in a hospital, to go to a Japanese theater, and so on, ad infinitum. The result is to cut the American rulers off from any normal contact with the Japanese ruled. Moreover, in order to enforce such segregation, according to well-informed observers, the American authorities have had to hire Japanese—housekeepers, theater managers, ticket agents — to inform on their American conquerors. The Japanese call the American counter-intelligence the "kempetai," after their own dread pre-war secret police.

Rule three: The real political life of the country governed is hopelessly smothered under the artificial conditions of tight military control. No one but a second-rater, or a fool, or an occasional, aged, duty-bound patriot will seek office when all real power, the only real reward for political office, is in foreign hands. Thus, responsibility for everything, from balancing the budget to inspecting slaughterhouses, is sloughed off on the conquerors. And everything painful, from high taxes to inadequate rations, is conveniently blamed on the occupied power, a game which the Japanese Communists are playing hard and well.

This has been a benevolent and remarkably peaceful occupation. It has a number of impressive accomplishments to its credit, of which the land reform is the most outstanding. But the time of accomplishment has passed. And the inexorable operation of the three rules given above has now produced an urgent need for fundamental change. On that point almost everyone in Japan, except the high command, seems to be agreed.

There is even a good deal of basic agreement on what form this fundamental change should take. To withdraw American troops from Japan now would be sheer madness, in view of what is happening in China. But the military should revert to the proper role of the military — shooting guns and learning how to shoot guns. The Army should be taken clean out of Tokyo and all the other big cities, and clean out of the job of governing Japan.

Such a change would not produce an efficient, gloriously democratic Japanese government overnight. It would probably produce a terrible government. But the lesson of postwar Asia is that a heavy-handed colonialism does not pay. And unless the United States wants to make Japan a permanent, enormously expensive American colony, some such change has to come. And it has got to come soon.

Marquis Childs

Preliminaries First

WASHINGTON

WHILE it may be true that Congress will not act at this session on a health plan, there is every indication that Americans are more and more concerned over the issue. It touches directly so many families.

A letter comes to me from a school teacher who lives with his wife on a yearly salary of $2,800—before taxes. For the past five years, he writes, medical expenses have averaged between 25 and 30 per cent of that salary.

This year a siege with cancer, which was fortunately operable, brought the total hospital and doctor bills to $2,300. It was a crushing blow which will keep them in debt for a long time to come.

One of their friends is a young doctor. With him the other evening they got in an argument over medical care which grew bitter and hotter. That argument went something like this.

Teacher: I'm not sure that I'm in favor of compulsory health insurance on a national basis — the plan Truman is proposing. But what about people like us? We'll be years paying our medical bills.

Doctor: There's a perfectly good answer. It is voluntary health insurance. The number of people covered by that kind of insurance has grown enormously in recent years.

Teacher: Yes, but it isn't enough. Blue Cross, with the surgical benefits it carries, covered less than five per cent of my expenses for this year. And besides until very recently it's been hard for the average citizen outside a big organization to get voluntary insurance.

Doctor: That's true. The AMA has been for too backward in promoting voluntary health plans. There are plenty of plans that give more coverage for cases like yours.

Teacher: I don't doubt that. But they cost so much that people at my income level can't afford them. You doctors wouldn't know about that. I don't know how many doctors' mansions — and I mean mansions — I've helped build.

Doctor: There you go! I can show you statistics proving that the average doctor's income is . . . but what's the use! You seem to be against the whole profit system.

Teacher: Well, there you go! Can I help it if my salary is so low it won't cover high cost insurance plans? I'm just asking you. I'm asking you what happens to cases like mine.

Doctor: In the first place your case is exceptional. There are many families with medical expenses absorbing so high a proportion of their income.

Teacher: How do you know that? I've never seen any adequate statistics on the number of families that get caught with big medical bills. Yet I keep hearing about families like that all the time. And another thing, I want to know why medical insurance — the kind you talk about, that pays bigger benefits — costs so much.

Doctor: The insurance companies have to make a profit. You seem to be against anybody making any profit. You don't like the free enterprise system — profit. Anything the government tries to run is bound to get mixed up in politics and corruption. That would happen in medicine if this socialized plan went through.

At this point the argument went off the medical track. The teacher was troubled by the doctor's blanket indictment of government as inevitably corrupt. I think many of us are troubled as the corruption of government on state and local levels is revealed and as here in Washington slackness and favoritism too often seem the rule.

But apart from the health insurance plan, there are two steps which Congress should take at this session. One is to expand the present program of hospital construction with Federal funds. The second, which is even more important, is to initiate with Federal money a program for training more doctors and providing more research. The American people are to have adequate health insurance—whether voluntary or by Federal system —these steps are a necessary preliminary.

Drew Pearson's Merry-Go-Round

Lobbies Springboards To Plush Jobs

WASHINGTON

ONE of the worst Washington lobbying rackets is to get a job with the Government, then use it as a springboard to secure a lush-paying job in private industry. Sometimes a Government official almost seems to be working for the private company with which he wants a job even before he gets the job.

Recently the Waltham Watch Co. received a $6,000,000 loan from the Reconstruction Finance Corp. At the very same time it received the loan, Waltham hired one of the chief RFC officials who helped arrange the loan—John Hagerty, head of the RFC's Boston office.

Hagerty knows nothing about the intricate problem of watch-making or selling; is a political protege of ex-Sen. Dave Walsh. He conducted the preliminary work for the Waltham loan, recommending it to the RFC in Washington. He was then getting a Government salary of $10,000. But the minute Waltham got the loan, Hagerty left the RFC and went to work for Waltham at a salary of $30,000.

Query: Did Waltham offer the lush salary to Hagerty because he deserved it, or as a reward for helping swing the RFC loan?

Another RFC Loan

AGAIN, the RFC has given a $3,000,000 loan to the Plywood Plastics Corp., of Hampton, S. C. One of the RFC officials who helped arrange it was Sterling Foster.

And now Foster has notified the RFC that he intends to go to work soon for the Plywood Plastics, the same company which borrowed $3,000,000. Foster will get about double his salary, getting $18,000 the first year, and $22,000 by the third year.

Again query: was this a reward for help in arranging the loan?

The Treasury's Internal Revenue Bureau long ago got around this problem by refusing to let any of its retired personnel practice before the Bureau until two years after resigning. But other Government departments are lax, especially the Army and Navy.

One of the worst scandals in Washington is the number of high-ranking Army and Navy officers now working for private industry in order to handle procurement contracts with the Army and Navy. Many of them still draw pensions from the U. S. Government, plus income-tax exemptions, in addition to their lush private industry salaries.

New Judge Baldwin

SEN. RAY BALDWIN'S acceptance of a Supreme Court judgeship in Connecticut illustrates a point which many people don't realize—the wear and tear to which we subject our public servants.

Sen. Baldwin has been active in Connecticut politics for 29 years—a long time in any man's life. During that period he was subjected to the expense and the physical drain of running for Governor in five elections in ten years. In other words, he ran for Governor or Senator an average of every two years.

During his 29 years in public office a quirk of fate made it such that no Republican Governor was ever in office at the right time to appoint him to the State Supreme Court—long Baldwin's chief ambition. Either Baldwin was Governor and couldn't appoint himself or a Democrat was Governor and wouldn't appoint him.

So the other day, Gov. Chester Bowles, hearing of Baldwin's lifelong ambition, offered him appointment to the Supreme Court, and the Senator naturally accepted. He will not take office until December by which time most major legislative matters will have been decided.

NOTE—Several years ago, Herbert Hoover, sizing up Republican Presidential timber, described Baldwin as the ablest Governor in Republican ranks. As a Senator he has also lived up to this appraisal.

Aid To Education

FEDERAL aid to education, which was blocked in the 80th Congress, is now pretty well set to roll through Congress—provided the Catholic Church gives its blessing.

In the past, the Catholics have put up a fight because religious schools are not included in the program. But Senate Labor Chairman Elbert Thomas of Utah has taken quiet steps to obtain Catholic co-operation and thus assure smooth sailing for the bill.

Thomas's first move was to invite two Catholics—Sens. Howard McGrath of Rhode Island and James Murray of Montana—to join the sponsoring group of the bill. They warned, however, that if the Catholic hierarchy took a stand against the bill, they would have to reverse themselves.

Although Thomas did not include parochial schools in the bill because of the constitutional divorcement of Church and State, he tried to woo Catholic support by proposing that parochial schools be included in a Federal health program for school children.

Sens. Brian McMahon of Connecticut and Ed Johnson of Colorado promptly offered an amendment which would make health benefits available to parochial schools as part of the aid-to-education bill. But Thomas, wary of linking church schools with the education bill in any way, proposed a separate bill instead. This would authorize $50,000,000 for health benefits for both public and parochial schools.

Thomas now hopes to push both bills through Congress at the same time, appeasing the Catholics with the health bill and those against Federal aid to parochial schools with the other bill.

Merry-Go-Round

NEW YORK'S Loyalty Day parade today, sponsored by the Veterans of Foreign Wars, should do more than certain witch-hunts to stimulate thinking about the good old USA. . . . Look Magazine takes a certain look at City Across The River this week. . . . South Dakota Democrats have found a candidate they believe can beat Sen. Chan Gurney in 1950—Huron's new mayor, Dr. John S. Tschetter. The doctor has been chief of staff at the Catholic Hospital in Huron—though he, himself, is a Lutheran. . . . President Truman has asked his Council of Economic Advisers for an up-to-date memorandum of the U. S. economic condition no later than May 15. Truman may use this memorandum as the basis for a new legislative request to Congress on economic control. . . . The Ford Motor Co. will reject all demands by the Auto Workers Union for wage increases at this time. Ford is already paying top wages.