MONDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 1951

THE CYNICAL ATTITUDE OF LABOR

KARL MARX's doctrine that capitalism conclains within itself the seeds of its own destruction has come dangerously close to confirmation in these recent weeks. At a time when the United State is facing the greatest crisis in its long history, at a time when self-denial and sacrifice and unselfishness should be the role of beand unselfishness should be the rule of be-havior for every patriotic American, we are witnessing a sickening display of greed and avarice by those economic groups that have the most at stake in this world battle between democracy and Russian Commu-

nism.

Business, industry, agriculture, organized Business, industry, agriculture, organized labor—all are steing with each other to see who can benefit most from the current preparedness program. And running beside them, cavorting from one to the other, is the Politician who finds in the current turmoil a perfect atmosphere for self-advancement.

Vancement.

Everyone seems to have forgotten the solder and sailor and Marine and sirman in far away Kores. No one pays any attention to the young man who is drafted from civilian life, ready to make the supreme sacrifice if called upon to do so. None of the large economic groups is blameless in this sordid spectacle, unless it be the white collar worker who has no lobby in Washington and who has learned by hitter exceptions on to expect any oon.

lobby in Washington and who has learned by hitter experience not to expect any con-sideration from the powers that be. But if the white-collur, salaried worker is con-spicuous by his absence, the organized worker and his national bosses are in the front ranks of this battle for privilege.

Disatilities with a wage ceiling voted by industry and public representatives on the Wage Stabilization Board, a ceiling that was admittedly a temporary arrangement pending a fuller study of the relationship of prices and wage. Organized Labor has walked out on the national stabilization program and has threatened widespread strikes uniess its own terms are met. If the news reports over the weekend are to be trusted, Defense Mobilizer Eric Johnston have been bombarded by a well-organized campaign of protest from organized labor, and in the absence of word from others, are about ready to knuckle from others, are about ready to knuckle under to Labor's demands.

under to Labor's demands.

There is considerable evidence that prices have outstripped wages, and that industry has been given a dominant voice in directing the preparedness program—these two being the main complaints of Organized Labor But the threat of a waknout on the stabilization program is not the right way to settle these grievances, especially when the long-delayed defense program is just beginning to move into high gear.

This has been a callous and cynical ex-

This has been a callous and cynical ex-Organized Labor without parallel in the nation's history. Labor may gain the concession it seeks, but at what a loss in the morale of our fighting men and at what comfort to those disciples of Karl Marx who believe, as he did, that capitalism will destroy itself in time!

HIGHWAY COMMISSION TACTICS

RECENT activities of the State Highway Commission that are gradually coming to light are making mockery of the words of its chairman, Dr. Henry Jordan, who told a Senate committee several weeks ago that the Commission was not fighting the Powell street bill and that, as an agency of the State Government, it would carry out any program decided upon by the General Assembly.

Rep. Edward M. OHerron Jr. of Mecklenburg revealed last week-end that he

ral Assembly.

5. Edward M. O'Herron Jr. of Meck-ing revealed last week-end that he been approached in Raleigh and ed that the last section of this city's pendence Boulevard would not be comd as soon as planned if the salection-delegation supported the Powell bill. James B. Vogler said he had also warned that the larger cities would

been warned that the larger cities would miffer if the Prowell bill becomes law.
Last week Mayor Marshall Kurfees of Winston-Balem said that an official of the State Highway Department intimated Winston-Balem might not get a proposed arterial highway and ralionad overpass if it continued to support the Powell bill.
Two weeks ago, a secret meeting was held at the Correct Time Inn in Alamance County, attended by Governor Scott, officials of the Highway Commission, legislators and local officials from that area. Pressure was applied on the local officials to fight the Powell bill. fight the Powell bill.

There are persistent reports that a simi-

lar session was held in Asheville during the Farm Bureau convention, and that western delegates were tempted with the offer of more money for secondary road construction in that area if they would fight the Fowell bill.

In Ahoskie on Wednesday of last week, a big meeting of local officials was arranged by H. G. Shelton, First Division Commis-sioner. Governor Scott and Dr. Jordan were both in attendance and sought to persuade residents of that area to fight the

were both in attendance and sought to persuade residents of that area to right the Powell measure. These behind-the-scenes efforts of the State Highway Commission to Influence the North Carolina General Assembly the State Highway Commission of the State Highway Commission of the State Highway Commission of the State agency. There is no need for the Highway Commission to try to buy and sell members of the General Assembly. If the Commission to try to buy and sell members of the General Assembly. If the Commission to try to buy and sell members of the General Assembly. If the Commission of the General Assembly and the State Control, intimidation, promises, "deals"—these have no place in a cam discussion of a major public issue.

If the Commission persists in such tactice, the General Assembly should consider ways and means of restricting the Governor's influence with the Commission so as to preserve it as an agency to serve

so as to preserve it as an agency to serve all the people.

about the size of this physical world, and would completely alter all our concepts of national security-concepts that have al-

ready been radically changed by the per-fection of the uranium bomb, the reported progress on the hydrogen bomb, and rumored development of atomic missiles and atomic artillery.

and atomic artillery.

The significance of the announcement lies even deeper. It means that scientists have learned to control atomic energy, and to put it to work constructively instead of destructively, thus bringing closer the day of the Atomic Revolution which promises to revolutionize our whole way of life—it, of course, our way of life survives until man learns to harness his own powers and put them to wholly constructive uses.

SYMBOL OF THE REVOLUTION WHILE the nation was still pondering the exploit of a British jet bomber as it nearly matched the pace of the sun across the Atlantic, there came another breath-taking announcement. An airplane to be powered by nuclear fission is in the blueprint stage, said the Atomic Energy Commission in a matter of fact statement. The AEO didn't give many details, but scientists filled in a few. In theory, a plane the size of a B-36 could fly around the world 80 times on one pound of U-235 at a speed limited only by the sero-dynamic design of the craft. Some scientists have suggested that 2,500 miles an hour is not too much capted. The plane's ceiling would be virtually unlimited. One doesn't have to think very long or very hard to realize that such a plane would abatter the few remaining illusions

Forces In Good Shape After All

WASHINGTON

CPEAKING IN Sait Lake Ch.

Tath of Ohio had sone interesting
hings to say about military spending and the national economy. It
is possible that his remarks are
like that cloud on the horizon no
bigger than a man's h an of forecatting the shape of things to

MISLEADING FIGURES
The number of Russian divisions is commonly put at 175. Russian of 12,000 men or Ordinarily, it is believed, they are considerably believed. The American division of 18.000 men is part of phrase is an unfortunate example of Government gobbledgook, the "division silice." The division silice for a typical combat zone in a large highest control of the con

U.S. Defensive

MARQUIS W. CHILDS

casting the shape of things to come.

Specifically, Taft suggested the appointment of a commission headed by civilians 'to explore the appointment of a commission headed by civilians 'to explore the white fewer men and less expense.'

Will seem to many to have merit since it sometimes looks as though the armed services were bent on extra everything while the getting was good regardless of cost. But as so often when Senator Taft goes from the general to cous ground In his Salt Lake speech he said.

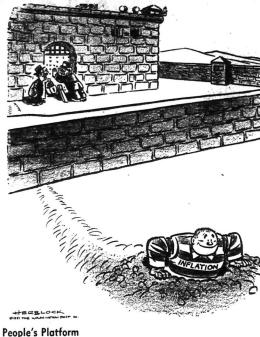
"Is it necessary for us to support 50,000 men in uniform and \$2,000 more evilians to put one dield". This is certainly far more than is required by any other nation."

There is here, it seems to me, a

than is required by any outer into "
There is here, it seems to me, a confusion that is partly the fault of the Army's method of computing its organized strength.
Partly the confusion results from exagerated and even hysterical estimates of the size of Rusting and the confusion of the size of Rusting and the size of Rusting and Rusting and the size of Rusting and Rusting a

gia's forces.
MISLEADING FIGURES
The number of Russian

'You Sure You've Got Him Locked Up Tight?'



Confusion Confounded PITTSBORO

Editors, Tur News:

J HAVE been here for a considerable time, but I do not think I have at any time witnessed the confusion that exists today at all levels, state, national and international.

There is confusion confounded at Raleigh over what to do with streets of the cities and towns that constitute parts of our state highway system. What is the difference between, say W. Market St. in Greensboro and the main street of Pittaboro? Both are parts of great east-west state highways. We have just complete and gutters plus side-walks right through this little town at public expense and the same will be maintained out of the general highway fund. W. Market St. in Greensboro involves only maintenance, as the pavement is already there. W. Market St. may be subjected to more local per capita use the subjected to more local per capita use the subject of the

voived.

Furthermore, public highway funds belong neither to the country nor to the cities and towns, but to all the users of the highways alike. This farmakes this fund the most demoratic of all the funds in the possession of the state. It should be so used.

so used.

The mobilization program is likewise confused at the national level. We all know that we can't have price control without control of all the cost factors. Labor and raw material constitute the great cost factors of all manufactured products. Yet the cotton merchant's price to the manufacturer is limited, with no limit set as at what the cotton merchant has to pay for raw cotton. Labor cost likewise is undetermined or unlimited. Of course, price control will become only a vezations futility.

futility.

We are now converting from a peace-time military basis to an indefinite war-time military basis — a change of historic national policy. Yet this change is attended by almost utter confusion. More than that. Every time one tries to discuss the subject on its merits, someone raises cry of smear or that the attempted honest discussion is political.

soon is political.

In a political in the property of the polity may mean the life or death of the nation. It deserves national consideration, the multiary or partians consideration. We may deter from or provoke Russis into an invasion of Western Europe and a resultant third world war. Furthermore, we may completely exhaut ourselves in an endurance contest with Russia without any war at all. We may think that Russia without any war at all. We may think that Russia would crack up under the strain. On the other hand, we might see the strain to our endurance as well as Russia.

to our endurance as well as russas a.

Another thought—free democratic institutions are inherently less able to long endure total mobilization. That fact should be remembered at all stages of our consideration of war programs.

We now have some area of choice or election. But that may be lost by an act of impulsiveness on the part of either this Administration or our

military leaders. And it may be lost even though what we do is the result of the composite judgment of all branches of our Government. But we should act upon no lesser basis.

JOHN W. HESTER.

The Road Of No Return

The Road Of No Return

Editors, The News:

How dumb, O! how dumb—I keep asking myself

How dumb, O! how dumb—I keep asking myself

How dumb, O! how dumb—I keep asking myself

How dumb can

a guy get. When Hitler was making his allout bid

for Stalingrad, and the British Army was fighting

time when even Winston Churchill must have had

his doubts about who was going to win the war,

then it was that I said to myself. "If by some mir
scle we happen to win this war, I do solemnly de
ciare that we, in co-operation with our powerful ally,

never again be threatened." That was what E said

to myself in that day.

But Roosevelt passed on to his retward, and

there arose a king who knew not Joseph." Win
ston re-defined for us our foreign policy at Fulton,
and Peace through Strength became the order of

the day, with each of the two great allies striving

Imporing Michael Straights observation that rearms
ment has ever ended—will ever and of necessity

must ever end—in war, we directed our steps head
long down that dark and treacherous Road of No

Return. It seems to me that human beings are being made suckers out of.

—A. E. BASSETT.

-A. E. BASSETT.

Smith And Taft

Editors, The News:

I READ your published excerpts from an address delivered by Senator Willis Smith on American foreign polley. It was interesting to note that our junior Senator has thrown in with Republican Senator Robert Tath in an effort of delay or defeat President Truman's intention to send an army to Europe.

Europe.

My thoughts went back to May of 1850; the month of the hot Senatorial primary between Senator Smith and Dr. Frank P. Graham. I was won-start Smith and Dr. Frank P. Graham. I was won-term of the senator of th

the sending of an army to Europe to user the Russian Communism.

But that's the way of the world. Two sets of people have apparently bought themselves in munity against the taint of being called "appearers"—those who were once "Reds" and now once accused someone clee of being a "Red". Thus the Senator Tafts and the Senator Smiths can follow a policy which are the senator Smiths can follow a policy which is the senator Smiths can follow a policy which is stated to the senator Smiths can follow a policy which is stated to the senator Smiths can follow a policy which is stated to the senator Smiths can follow a policy which is stated to the senator Smiths can follow a policy which is stated to the senator Smiths and the senator Smiths and Sm

Wilson Faces

To Hold Line

By THE ALSOPS

Hard Battle

By THE ALSOPS

THEY'RE ALL setting life pigs.

These are the video life pigs.

The video life life pigs.

The video video life pigs.

rageous as they make out in pub-lic.

They also privately agree that Secretary of Labor Maurice Tobin has no real business running the whole manpower requirements of as military deferments and indu-tions; and moreover that Tobin himself is something less than a genius. As for the third ostensible issue, the appointment of a labor official on Wissen's staff, Wilson official on Wissen's staff, Wilson of the property of the letter in which the labor leaders in notably confillatory reply to the letter in which the labor leaders virtually called him a liar. So this can hardly be rated a real issue either.

DEBT UNPAID?

DEBT UNFAID?

The real issues go deeper. For one thing, labor feels that President Truman has not paid off for the paid off the paid of the paid off the paid off the paid off the paid off the paid of the paid off the paid off the paid off the paid off the paid of the paid off the paid off the paid of the paid off the paid of the

process of agiralling prices might process of agiralling prices might will go a set wholly gain et al. and the stall not happened to the control certain food prices below party. Inevitably agriculture Secretary Ch at 21 and authority to control certain food prices below party. Inevitably agriculture Secretary Ch at 21 and a secretary Ch at 21 and 22 and 24 and 24

Drew Pearson's Merry-Go-Round

Scarce Metal Control Plan Set For June

tion.

"The controlled materials plan is one that will operate
on scarce materials absolutely," the mobilization boss explained. "I mean, it will have the control of all the material
in the particular line that is short." in the perticular line that is short."

However, Wilson added ruefully: "Once you start to control things, it is a terrific job. That is why I hate econtrols, and from the very bottom of my heart I hate controls."

troil. and from the very bottom of my deast I have curroils.

The sason for this drawtic control plan. Wilson said, was the dangerously whert supply of sluminum, copper and steel in the face of the tremendous armament program.

He warned that the steel shortage will be the most critical, but that the copper and aluminum picture is not so gloomy. For example, he reported: "We will continue to have an aluminum shortage for this current year of maybe as much as 180,000 or 190,000 tons. ... But by 1953, when these American plants of ours come in and begin to produce, we will have a plusage of aluminum, not more continued to the continued of the con

MASHINGTON
MOBILIZATION boss Charles Wilson will assume drastic
powers over aluminum, copper and steel, beginning
the middle of June. He will put these strategic metals under
authority to regulate their use down to the Jun powers
Wilson spelled out his plan behind closed doors to
the Joint Congressional Committee on Defense Production.

WASHINGTON

"Yes, sir," smiled Wilson.

GI Gripes

LETTERS pour in to this column every day from G
erecting their time-honored American privilege to
the Joint Congressional Committee on Defense Production.

GI Gripes

Letters pour in to this column every day from GI's, exercising their time-honored American privilege to kick. It is impossible to investigate all their complaints, but from time to time, this column will publish the most serious of the color of the color

Fall, under which enlisted reservists with sufficient points would not be sent overseas?"

Note: The sent overseas was a sent over the sent ov

Job-Selling Scandal Job-Selling Scandal

Here is the inside story on the Mississippi "job-selling"

Lere is the inside story on the Mississippi "job-selling"

and Mississippi's two Senators have affidavits
from twenty rural mail carriers, postmasters and contractors who say they were charged as high as \$1,500 for
fobs and favors. The Senators' constituents claim to have
been approached by representatives of the so-called Truman
for a present of the so-called Truman
Jobs were sold at the following prices: \$1,500 for
rural mail carrier, a position not requiring Senate confirmation: \$300 to \$400 for acting postmaster (this payment is small, since postmasters must be confirmed by the
Senate): \$300 to \$400 for acting postmaster (this payment is small, since postmasters must be confirmed by the
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Extraor B: Chartes A. Gauli in the Ashe-le Citizen-Times (though not this year): Plants are flowering in mid-Winter and noticed the following precocous bloom-s: Winter jasmine, moss pink, dandelion, panese quince, chickweed, wallflower and

From The Greensboro Daily News SPRING IN FEBRUARY?

"THEY can fool us about a lot of things,"
I says an editorial in The Charlotte
News, "but not about Spring. Who ever
heard of Spring in February?"
We have. What's more, we've heard of
Indian Summer in November and "June in

Modian Summer in November and 'June in January.'

The Charlotte editor confesses that skepticism 'hasn't kept us from casting covert giances at he area by the hedge where the buttercups grow, hasn't kept us from keeping a close watch on the First Presbyerian churchyard for the advent of the little while. However that some people call Stars of Bethlehem,' but he insists that the 'false Spring' of Peturary shouldn't fool any Tar Heel.

Well, false or not, there's plenty of proof that Spring pokes her head in on us this time of year.

Exhibit 'A. Forsythia' acting as a nest egg for the sun.

the sun.

Exhibit B: Charles A. Shull in the Ashe-

in FEBRUARY?

a bush honeysuckle. They were bravely pretending that it was Spring and not the middle of January.

Exhibit C: The period February 15-20 as
described in the late Senator J. W. Bailey's

"The Song of the Cardinal".

Already the first-breath-of-Spring is distilling perfume from delicious chalices and
one may discover a dandelion in the grass

white throat trills a wistful Winter song.

The Japanese quince is about to flame forth,
a vertiable burning bush, before which one
might well take off his aboes. One may
catch sight of an adventurous bee. Wrens
and bluebirds are calling. Progr are pipTo be sure, Spring ham't taken up residence in the Old North State just yet, but
she's peeping in when you least expect her.
She's liable to flash a forsythia bush at
you can minute and shovel sleet down the
back of your neck the next. But anyway
that means she's round about, the darling.

Spring styles are made for the woman with the trim figure, say the headlines. For the untrim there's always slacks.— New Orleans (La.) States.