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MONDAY, MARCH 19, 1951

## OFFICIAL MORALITY AT A LOW LEVEL

DISCLOSURES which are filling the newspapers about the low character of many of our office holders have been mortifying in the extreme. The RFC and Five Percent committees have uncovered what amounts to an illicit affair between Federal influence and Federal benefits, which must give everyone a feeling of profound mistrust in the Administration. One of the latest examples of the performance in the act was that of the Administrator in borrowing from the RFC files an armful of correspondence concerning requests by various Congressmen for RFC benefits for their constituents.

There would be, of course, nothing improper in a Congressman's lending his supplies to any applicant for an RFC loan, unless he withheld material information, or—this is the venal sin—unless he sought to trade his Congressional influence for the RFC's favor.

Let no one assume that a low state of morality exists only in the Federal Government. The Kefauver hearings of the last year, the proprietorship of gambling have shown another wholly alien between state and local law-enforcement officials and higher-ups.

## STABILIZATION ON THE WAGE FRONT

HISTORY has a way of repeating itself and it appears to be doing so in the efforts of the government to arrive at a workable labor-management policy.

Last Fall, as the Nation began to get down seriously to the business of rearming, President Truman appointed the Wage Stabilization Board of nine members, three representing industry, three labor and three the public. The board blew up on February 15 when the three labor representatives stepped out in a huff because the other six members stood firm on a policy limiting general wage increases to 10 per cent over the level of January, 1950. They walked out in face of the fact that the board was appointed for the specific purpose of making a definite action to curb the spiraling increase in wages and salaries.

Back in the tense days of early 1941 when the United States was trying desperately to get ready for the coming storm, President Roosevelt appointed the National Defense Mobilization Board. The board had twelve members and its purpose was to get management and labor to settle their differences peacefully.

The NDMB succeeded fairly well by persuasion and cajolery in keeping peace on the labor front until November, 1941, the month before Pearl Harbor when the CIO members walked out in support of John L. Lewis' demand for a union shop in coal mines owned

## THE GREATEST MOTHER

WHATEVER the importance of the Red Cross in the past, as we face today's realities that importance becomes even more vital, and there could be no better group to take the initiative in this emergency than the Red Cross. The tradition, the character, and the past record of performance of the earnest and selfless men and women of the Red Cross are priceless assets to our national security.

ARTHUR W. WASHINGTON, Chairman, The National Security Resources Board.

AS YOU make your contribution to the Red Cross this year remember: your contribution must fight on two fronts—at home and overseas.

Ahead, the Red Cross has close ties with all Red Cross societies. It is an important factor in the fostering of international good

From The Greenville (S. C.) Piedmont

## FREE MAIL AND THE POSTAL DEFICIT

PRESIDENT TRUMAN has sent to the Congress a suggested bill which would all but double the postal rates of first class mail and raise other categories. The bill comes from the office of the Postmaster General, for whom we have the utmost respect, if for no reason other than the fact that he is a career postman who has risen to the top.

The motive behind this bill is good. Its purpose is to bring the Post Office Department out of the red, for, on paper, the United States Government is carrying the mail at a considerable loss, a good many hundreds of millions of dollars a year. A major part of the blame for the postal deficit is placed on newspapers and periodicals, which years ago were given a special rate in the interest of the dissemination of information.

Now, however, the shipment of newspapers and periodicals is largely blamed for the postal deficit when, as a matter of fact, it just isn't. The Piedmont, nor any other newspaper wants a Government subsidy in the class or any other category. It is one of the daily newspapers moving by mail is small and postal charges are but a tiny part of our operating costs. The press is willing and able to pay its own way in postal rates as in other things.

It is most likely that the Government can look elsewhere and find the reason why the Post Office Department is losing money. A rural mail carrier has pointed a finger right at it in an article entitled, "The Postman Knows the Answer" in the current issue of *Magazines*.

Evidently corruption infests government of all kinds to an alarming degree.

Senator Fulbright, chairman of the RFC Committee, has suggested that a non-partisan committee of private citizens be formed to study the excess of disbursement and unethical political practices, not exempting Congress and the Executive establishment. Such an undertaking would be highly desirable, not so much for any lurid disclosures that it might bring about. As a matter of fact, it might be borne in on most people that only a complete change of administration can be expected to lead light into many a dark corner in Washington.

The greatest long-term benefit to come from such study as Senator Fulbright suggests would be the formulation of a code of political ethics for the guidance of both officials and the people, a sort of latter-day Ten Commandments. And if so was the law, the new code would be one of the rules that would be a part of the organic law of the land, that would be a useful implement to go with an enlightened public conscience.

by the big steel companies.

After Pearl Harbor, Congress was in no mood to tolerate strikes or other industrial strife and there was strong talk of a no-strike law.

President Roosevelt replaced the NDMB in January, 1942 with the War Labor Board. The new board had twelve members, four representing the public, four labor and four management.

The board was given wide powers over wages and hours and related matters. President Roosevelt backed it up, using the Army or Navy to enforce the board's orders and keep war output going. The board didn't have easy sailing but it managed to survive and continued its functions throughout the war.

With the collapse of his Wage Stabilization Board President Truman has announced his purpose to appoint a new, 17-member board, as a national advisory board of mobilization under Mobilization Director Wilson.

The President was not specific about the proposed board's powers and it remains to be seen whether it will have the authority or the will to hold the wage line. The wage and price lines are so vital to this country in the present circumstances that the board should be given full powers and instructed to use them.

The Red Cross can serve to develop and foster that good will, thus putting up one more safeguard against World War III. At home, the army of trained volunteers and the small but experienced career staff of the Red Cross have long since proved their value in caring for the needs of the men who fight for us and in relieving civilian communities during and after periods of emergency.

These are the traditional tasks of the Red Cross and to them this year has been added the burden of assisting in the development of a civilian defense program. Thus the Red Cross needs more money than ever before.

Only 54 per cent of that had been contributed through last week. The value of the Red Cross is proven, the needs are obvious and our course of action is clear.

this postman, one John M. Drake Jr. who carries a rural route out of Mangum, Oklahoma, says the postal deficit is due to the fact that the Government itself is sending out mail.

He tells of the huge load of mail he has to carry that consists entirely of material mailed, free, by Congressmen and Senators whose sole motive is to convince their constituents that they are doing a good job. This mail is especially heavy during campaign season, as the incumbents take advantage of their franking privilege to mail out what can be honestly classified only as campaign propaganda.

In addition, Congressmen and Senators have been known to insert in the Congressional Record certain material presented by lobbyists and to "lend" their franking privilege to outfits like the Committee for Constitutional Government, which, according to the House committee on lobbying, sent out between eight and ten million pieces of literature in the last year. The Post Office Department of about \$300,000 in revenue.

And this doesn't even take into account the free mail sent out by the Veterans Administration, the Department of Agriculture and other agencies, mail which often requires the return mailing of a reply in a franked envelope.

Maybe the postal rates should be raised, but should the Government expect the Post Office Department to pay its own way or to show a profit, when the Government itself is perhaps the biggest users of the mail?

## 'I Too Suffer From L and Hunger, Comrade'



Herblock

Don't let the world's underdeveloped areas suffer from L and Hunger, Comrade.

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## Major Gains Wiped Out By VA Administrator's Act

By MARQUIS CHILDS

WASHINGTON  
QUIETLY and effectively without benefit of sensational headlines an investigation has gone forward here that could produce greater good than the more publicized spectacles. That is the inquiry conducted by the Veterans Administration into the medical policy of the Veterans Administration.

So much has gone awry here as standards of administration have dropped that the medical and hospital services are being badly run and yet are hardly more than noted in the news. That applies to the recent action taken by VA Administrator Carl Gray in removing Dr. Paul Magnusson as VA medical director.

Few have realized that this with one stroke a major gain achieved only after the most arduous and difficult effort was wiped out. That this is no small matter is shown by the ever-increasing population of the VA hospitals and the constant pressure on Congress to provide more beds.

The course in which has just happened is that President Truman, himself, gave the original go signal for the removal of Magnusson. The VA. The President has boundless courage for the courage and honesty of his medical director, Dr. Paul Magnusson. When Dr. Magnusson was removed, the VA. The President has boundless courage for the courage and honesty of his medical director, Dr. Paul Magnusson.

But more serious was the isolation of the VA medical service from the whole stream of research and progress in modern medicine. Underpaid doctors worked in the medical bureaucracy detached. The few good men who stayed in the service did so out of a sense of duty.

With full authority from the President to proceed without regard to politics of any kind, Dr. Magnusson was able to do so. The VA. The President has boundless courage for the courage and honesty of his medical director, Dr. Paul Magnusson.

## Everything Under Control? Don't Try To Kid Me, Jack

By ROBERT C. RUARK

NEW YORK  
WELL, SIR, it's been about six or seven years since I saw a boy being led into Washington on their first firing line, and all I know is that it cost me a damn good deal of money to get out of the city. The cost of everyday, non-luxurious show is up again from five to ten per cent since the great brains took over, to stave off disastrous inflation and keep the economy tethered to some semblance of worth. In New York, at least, we are taking a rent hike up to 15 per cent.

Where is all the fine talk about stabilization of prices and "holding the line"? I believe it's called inflation. It's holding what line? Who is controlling what? And the answer is a loud, clear cuss word. PRICES TALK—BUT LOUD.

When bacon goes from 65 cents to 68 and eggs go up four cents a dozen and coffee climbs up four cents a pound, it seems a minor thing. But it's very difficult to make sweet music with the names of Charles Wilson and Dwight D. Eisenhower. The names don't mean anything unless the names do something about the predicament and all the lefty of the house knows is that it is getting tougher and tougher to get the family to go on.

I have noticed recently that an insurance company which does a business in commodities and retirement plan has jumped the double security figure from \$200 to \$250 a month. This is a nice price for a man of modest means to quit his job on. That's an increase of 25 per cent on

what we used to regard as a workable minimum for security in your

Things were not so rugged when we were involved in a real war, on two fronts, with twelve million men under arms. Why, says Mrs. Doe, has it got to be so rugged now? Don't kid me, Buster, don't sng me no songs. It's making the same money you maybe less and you guys tell me you got everything under control, but what are you doing about it?

The great American middle class is having its brains beaten out today and it knows it. It stands aghast at the inflation which is a bevy of small operators in high places, and recognizes the fact of ruin. We who are security men are beginning to distrust savings and insurance. The papers spin you a daily story of lying and mendacity as the only formula for prosperity.

In the failure to control we have cost ourselves, already, as much as we have gained. High tax rates, Truman has asked, and in less than a year. We have accomplished exactly nothing constructively and have wrecked personal economy of millions of people since last summer. The wreckage of the economy is the only formula for prosperity.

When the German government had previously agreed to ban these shipments. Finally, High Commissioner McElroy caught one barefooted shipment of American army trucks to Communist Hungary. Nine thousand surplus trucks had been acquired by Truck & Spare Motor Vehicles Ltd. for \$314 each. This was a legitimate sale by Streg, the agency which handles American surplus. The trucks were shipped to Hungary, making the sale with an official O.K. from the German government, despite the fact that the regulations surrounding the sale of U. S. property.

Fortunately, American troops on the German border got suspicious and stopped the truck shipment. It never reached Hungary.

'Insurance' With Reds  
MEANWHILE, Tell Berns of the National Machine Tool Builders Association in Cleveland reports that machine-tool plants in Western Germany, financed by the Marshall plan, are shipping vital machine tools both to Russia and to the Communist Party in Germany.

In Munich also, the American-published newspaper *Neue Zeitung* quoted the U. S. High Commissioner in Bavaria, George Shuster, on leave as president of Hunter College in New York, that the Ruhr industrialists were taking out insurance with the Communist Party and that the officers of the Communist Party were filled with their money.

U. S. officials have now informed the German gov-

## Charlotte's Fast Drivers

Editors, The News:

I NOTE in *The News* a report stating that Mecklenburg County and the City of Charlotte are

Drew Pearson's Merry-Go-Round

(Ed. note: Drew Pearson is on a flying tour of Europe and the Middle East, surveying the world situation.)

At the same time that the West Germans want more American troops to protect them against the threat of the Red army, a stream of strategic materials is rolling out of Germany to help arm that Red army.

This secret aid to Russia does not represent the real sentiment of the West German people or their new Bonn government. But it does represent the selfish, down-the-river attitude of the big industrialists. These are the same industrialists who copied up to Hitler and made his rearward stream of strategic materials.

These same industrialists who now want to sabotage the Schuman plan for cooperative operation of the Ruhr iron and steel industry—the most peace-insuring proposal ever made for Europe.

Here are a few examples of German business cutting its country's own throat by aiding the Communists:

Up to May 10, 1950, all exports of German machinery were cut by the Allied High Commission. On that date, however, the orders were relaxed and the Bonn government was given export control. Significantly, during the first 21 days after May 10, more ball bearings and more rubber compounds were sent to the Russian satellites than had been smuggled out in the previous five months.

Also huge quantities of carbon black, precious nickel, lead, crude iron and pig iron were exported—much of it going to Communist Hungary.

These shipments continued in June, totaling twice as much as in May—even though May had set a record and

## German Business Cuts Country's Throat

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