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Not Funny

Talmadge Moves in the Tradition of Tyranny

Let's not laugh at Gene Talmadge. He's dangerous. The Georgia dictator is a funny, sure. So was Huey Long, and the American people almost burst their belts laughing at a ludicrous little man named Hitler. It seems that the ability to appear ridiculous but to survive is a characteristic of a modern tyrant. When the laughter dies away, when the usurper emerges as a grim reality, it is often too late.

Yesterday Governor Talmadge announced that unless two Atlanta newspapers—the Journal and the Constitution—“correct their attitude” he would move to them all news sources he controlled. He accused them of “penalizing Georgia” to hit at him. He stated that they were “wrong” when they opposed his high-handed dictatorial action in firing two prominent Georgia educators he trumped-up charges.

Talmadge added that if the two newspapers did not “correct their attitude” there is going to be another “hit” at Atlanta. The Governor at present publishes a weekly rather ironically named “The Statesman.”

He has his Volklicher Beobachter; he has his Oxyd; and his Glomale. Huey Long had several prophecies. Gene Talmadge is following the same unholy tradition. The American people are fully aware of the necessity of a free press. The most subject exhaustively. What we are fully aware of, perhaps, is that there is a consistent in this country a privately subsidized press, a press of personal propaganda publications that take advantage of the credulous and trustworthiness with which legitimate newspapers have earned the printed word.

It is not humorous that Gene Talmadge has threatened to avail himself of this prostituted offshoot of press. He is not funny when, like Huey Long, he threatens the legitimate press of his state. Long punished New Orleans newspapers by special spite laws. Today Talmadge threatens to punish executive news tomorrow he chooses even more summary methods of dealing with those who oppose him.

It is not necessary to dignify Talmadge by overstating his capabilities. There is a way to try to laugh him off the way. There is a middle course. It is to recognize him for the vicious, unscrupulous, vain little tyrant that he is, and to resolve that he must be eliminated from public life in the South and in the nation.

Nothing New

In 40 Years, America Has Sent Out 60 Expeditions

From the howl that went up in the isolationist camp when the American expedition of Iceland was announced, it is not surprising that Mr. Roosevelt acted without precedent. Nothing could be further from the truth.

The United States Navy, after considerable research, find that during the last four decades no less than 60 expeditionary forces have been dispatched by American Presidents to every corner of the globe. In only two instances was there a declaration of war.

In 1899 American Naval forces landed on the island of Samoa in the Pacific and four sailors were killed in a battle with the natives.

More than 2,000 American fighting men, including the Chinese Boxer, were sent to China in 1900. Since then 21 other landings have been made at various points in China. A considerable number of American troops are even now in Shanghai.

There was a long and bloody war against the Philippine guerrillas. As late as 1905 American bombers were used in an outbreak in Moro province. During nearly every one of the first years in this century, American sailors and marines fought in Central America. Troops to Panama in 1903 . . . in Nicaragua in 1909 . . . in Honduras in 1910 . . . in Mexico in 1910, 1912, 1917 . . . Haiti and Dominican Republic virtually as puppet states between 1912 and 1914.

In 1914 American bluejackets seized Veracruz, Mexico, city of Vera Cruz; in 1915 American troops were sent to Mexico, after President Villa.

And the complete story has never been told of the American troops who fought against the Bolsheviks in Northern Russia during the last days of the World War. Some 59 U. S. soldiers died during this ill-fated campaign, which was prosecuted, incidentally, with no declaration of war.

Few persons will attempt to justify all of these acts of intervention, but they certainly show that past Administrations have not hesitated to send troops to foreign countries.

Chas. Nuchols

In Him Met Fortitude and Exceeding Kindness

People have always had a soft spot for men who on the surface were gruff and explosive, yet who at bottom were exceedingly kind. The type generally gets to be known as “characters,” and there is something endearing about them.

Such a man was Charles A. Nuchols, who died this morning. In his outward manner he had a sort of swaggering ferocity which made all the more pleasant and reassuring the discovery of the essential gentleness of his nature. Oh, he could be tough, all right, and among men of his caliber he neither asked quarter nor thought to offer it. He had fought his way ahead and had relished the combat.

But the other was the side which made him loved by his family and genuinely liked and respected by his acquaintances. Thoughtful, understanding, generous, tolerant, he had in profusion the qualities which, with his forthright courage, made an exceptional personality.

In the main he was an individualist, expending his time and interest upon his own business and personal concerns to the exclusion of other affairs. He belonged to almost no organizations, served on almost no committees, looked for relaxation in quiet woods and fields rather than gregariously in the company of crowds. But there again he had another side, for while organized charities have found him unresponsive, direct appeals for help to human beings he could not turn down.

He was a good man, Charles A. Nuchols, and he endured the last long agonizing year of his life out of a reserve of fortitude and good cheer that endows only men who have exercised those qualities without stint.

False Friends

Southern Congressmen Only Put Off Cotton Show-Down

If ever the agricultural South has a long-wanted opportunity to wean itself away from its cotton economy, the next few planting seasons ought to afford it. Should the war go on, Britain and the millions of American men under arms will be needing foods in abundance. Whenever and however the war ends, America will be called on to feed the world.

Beside, out of this war there is going to come for American citizens, by some means or other, a higher standard of diet. There has been plenty for all, and before long they are likely to get it. In that process the agricultural South will be important.

For the Southern cotton farmer, however, the transition from a cotton economy to a foodstuffs economy is going to be painful and upsetting. The more gradually it comes about, the better for him and the Government on which he has learned to depend for subsidies.

It is axiomatic that the size of next year's cotton crop is determined, more largely than by anything else, by this year's prices. And with the astonishing price rise in the fact of warehouses running over with cotton (much of it, to be sure, said to be unsalable), plus a non-existent foreign market for cotton—a boom crop for next year is already in sight.

It doesn't make sense. Now is the time for the agricultural South to be preparing to emancipate itself from cotton slavery. Precisely that was the purpose of the original AAA legislation, which subsidized cotton-growers, yes, but only upon their promise to divert cotton acreage to soil-building crops. But Southern Congressmen would not long have it so.

They have maintained the subsidy while removing the condition, with the result that the “poor cotton farmer” is still with us, and likely to be more so next year. Ah, well; we suppose his kind make reliable constituents.

“Show Me” Policy

By Hugh S. Johnson

It probably is true, as Leon Henderson says, that the home-ownership of the war industrial boom is over. It is over, and that the plan of shortages, taxes, on you in the public interest. Take and like it.” You can get a lot further by convincing our people that they are the enemy of their will and judgment. Very little convincing faculty proof has been offered for the necessity for example, of converting the whole automobile industry to some other purpose, regardless of the necessity of a principal segment of our economic life—not merely production and distribution of service of automobiles, which employs millions, but also regardless of the fact that our whole geography and the territorial grouping of our population has been made over by automotive transportation.

One is that the American people are entitled to information justifying high-handed action. Showed the necessity, our history proves that they should not be sacrificed. At least this is true of people of patriotism and good will which means the bulk of us. But ours is properly a “show me” creed.

“TAKE IT AND LIKE IT” IS NOT ENOUGH

It is not enough just to say: “We have to crack down on you in the public interest. Take and like it.” You can get a lot further by convincing our people that they are the enemy of their will and judgment. Very little convincing faculty proof has been offered for the necessity for example, of converting the whole automobile industry to some other purpose, regardless of the necessity of a principal segment of our economic life—not merely production and distribution of service of automobiles, which employs millions, but also regardless of the fact that our whole geography and the territorial grouping of our population has been made over by automotive transportation.

CIVILIAN MORALE IS OF GREAT IMPORTANCE

A second principle is that, in the terrible moral concept of the “nation in arms” which is that, in war, the men in farms and factories are as much a part of American defense as our soldiers with the colors. In this sense civilian morale is as important as military morale. It is as important to be as eternally vigilant for the health and well-being and spirit of civilian life as it is to be watchful in the care of soldiers.

Henderson's own opinion is that the “office of price administration and civilian supply” is a peculiarly important one. It is peculiarly important because it is to see what civilian supply is interfered with as little as is consistent with the emergency effort. While he can't be blamed because he hasn't been properly supported, the fact is that he hasn't. A great deal of his present emphasis is all on civilian supplies rather than civilian supply. The latter would seem to be the job of some one else to emphasize.

What has our emergency defense organization done by way of conservation, substitution, curtailment of non-war construction, simplification and restriction of styles, types and designs to conserve civilian as well as military supply? There has been some talk but precious little action. It is easier to prepare to take emergency action than to consider much, and to conserve, this either or civilian life.

FORM OF ADMINISTRATION IS INADEQUATE

Truth is that the form of organization and administration in Washington for this kind of coordinated and economic action, which I have recently been studying minutely, is utterly unsuited to such a balancing of needs and conservation of interests. The Government supply departments are competing with each other. The overhead control organizations are also competing for authority. There is no adequate plan to compose conflicting demands. There is duplication after duplication of overlapping functions and overlapping of function and authority. There seems to be no one really interested in civilian supply except to invade and convert it to other uses. It is a situation complicated and confusing beyond belief.

I think it is not too bold to say that if this administrative machine isn't cleared up by some adequate reorganization of overhead, our vital job never can be done without losses, wastes, extravaganzas, increased costs and unnecessary sacrifice which will double or triple the burden. Failure to do this could possibly bring disaster.

Rule of the Majority?

Rating News & Observer
Free country. One where 130,000,000 are endangered because 10,000 shipbuilders quit, because ten planters got mad at five cotton pickers.

THE QUEEN CITY'S HOPE CHEST

- No. 1—An Uptown Theater-Auditorium
- No. 2—A Separate Court District
- No. 3—An Uptown Rest Room
- No. 4—Street-Widening



Midsummer Night's Dream



Letters to the Editor: About Being “Taken In”

Editors, The News:
What's the excitement 'bout the square folk with china high in the air, detectors running here and there—all taken in?

Brains on a par with Andy Gump, two foot boys had threatened to jump twenty stories down right on their ramp; “taking” Chastelate “in.” Motion picture advertising game; newspaper caught right in the “frame.” Then we consented we are upper-same. Completely “taken in.” Lord, youse us from this senseless sleep! Don't let some fool things ever repeat! Cause wisdom to be more repeat. Save us from being “taken in.”

—RON CHERRY JR.
BIT W. Fourth St.
Charlotte.

Kind Words From a Lady

Editors, The News:
In behalf of the American Legion Auxiliary I want to thank you and your corps of workers, particularly Miss Annie Mae Brown and Mr. H. L. Young for the wonderful publicity the unit has had this year. It has been a pleasure to work with you and the unit appreciates your interest in its program and activities. I also want to add my word of grateful acknowledgment for the courtesy and co-operation shown me.

MRS. JAS. M. VANDLIE
President, American Legion Auxiliary, Hornets Nest Unit No. 8.

A Letter From J. Edgar Hoover

Editors, The News:
I have just had an opportunity to read your editorial entitled “Pay-Off” which appeared in the June 30, 1931, issue of The News in which you discuss the recent arrests made by the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

I did not want to let this opportunity pass without expressing my appreciation for your statements of confidence.

J. EDGAR HOOVER
Federal Bureau of Investigation, Washington, D. C.

Giving Aluminum As a Duty

Editors, The News:
Have just read Mrs. M. B. Nicol's article on collecting aluminum. Mrs. Nicol did not say anything about giving these packages attractive gift wrapping. By this an oversight.

And why should anyone be given

How Many New Autos?

By Raymond Capper

Conservative estimates of the number of new automobiles to be sold in the United States during the year 1931 are being made by the other Presidential advisers.

OPM has asked the automotive industry to cut production to 20 per cent of 1930 levels. The current model year, which ends July 30, that normally constitutes any cut at all below normal production.

Because 1931 has been an abnormally high year. The present anticipated cut would allow the manufacture of 4,000,000 cars in the year beginning Aug. 1. England is not producing a single passenger automobile now. It will resume its production when the automobile industry that actually it will not be able to produce anything like 4,000,000 cars because materials will run short in other words. OPM policy is to stand on the 20 per cent cut and then to actual about 20 per cent. The duration will further, automatically. Since the automobile industry competes with defense for many materials, the automobile cut is figured in OPM, will be large, although no one knows how large.

OTHER ADVISERS WANTED

HEAVIER CUTS IN OUTPUT

Presidential advisers are pushing this bill-and-miss system as totally inadequate. The War Department has asked for a 50 per cent cut but OPM has refused to move. The War Department has just obtained another ten-billion-dollar appropriation, is now asking for another four billion and will later have a slice of a new lend-lease appropriation which is on the way. The War Department has unlimited authority to order as much equipment for the armed force as it believes needed. Tomorrow the War Department, can order as many tanks, scout cars and other blurring equipment as the automobile industry can produce. Why, ask OPM, does not the War Department go ahead and push these orders into the automobile industry and thus obtain its 30 per cent cut?

The War Department attitude has been that orders must not be piled on too heavily or industry would be smothered as a fire is smothered when too much wood is loaded on. That isn't quite consistent with what the War Department has done before. It has loaded some of the big established producers with backlogs that will be many months clearing up, while it has neglected to distribute orders for conversion of peacetime factories to the extent that many in OPM believe should be done.

PASSING GAME

OPM is getting into a good deal of back packing here. And some of the President's advisers believe that there should be an end to this shuffling. They urge a decisive, clear-cut, planned policy. Only by such a firm, planned policy can rapid conversion of automobile production to defense production be brought about with a minimum of unemployment and dislocation, some of these advisers believe.

OPM officials are fearful that a drastic cut would drive cars out of work and lead to parades of the unemployed protesting that defense has taken their jobs from them. Labor unions ask only that the substitution of defense work or automobile production be done under an efficient program which would avoid transitional unemployment. The CIO fought for the Reuther plan to convert automobile production to defense work. It was opposed by OPM.

AUTO PRODUCERS WOULD WELCOME CLEAR-CUT DECISION

Every department concerned with defense is talking about the need for cutting automobile production. Even automobile manufacturers would be relieved to have the uncertainty ended by a clear-cut decision so they might plan ahead.

Some Presidential advisers urge an immediate decision, effective Aug. 1, that would provide a graduated reduction, say 30 per cent for the first two months, 30 per cent for another two months and then 50 per cent. They would cut down to one-half of the production in the normal 1930 year. A graduated step that would give time for substitution of defense orders to minimize unemployment and dislocation.

The need of employing the labor, productive capacity, raw materials and inventive genius of the automobile industry for defense is obvious. Some of those around the President do not believe it will happen unless the Government makes a clear-cut decision that would bring it about.

Visitin' Around

Grady But Emulated (Mossy Dale Item)
Winston News & Herald
Whenever those hungry town people smell the pot still in the country they will come out. If they would put more money in “follies and less in white shirts and red ties they would not look so undernourished.”

Side Glances

