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THURSDAY, FEBRUARY, 22, 1945

Trouble's Root

It is no good to puzzle over the strange condition of the textile industry. A casual visitor might surmise that it is possessed by two great armies of knaves. He might reasonably assume, from the recent blazes by and at Dr. W. P. Jacobs, that management was maliciously intent upon maintaining sky-high prices, producing only the most expensive goods, and keeping its workers in virtual slavery. He might assume, as well, that the workers were bent upon having fat wage increases on exactly the same basis as their brethren in the North, and that otherwise they would rebel.

There's enough evidence to lead strangers to that conclusion, but they must be told that what is wrong with the textile industry is wrong, to some extent, with other American industries. And they must be shown, somehow, that all this pushing and pulling, this insisting and besting of brows, traces back to Washington, where three big and powerful war agencies, between them, cannot untangle the skein.

You see, textile management jobsites through Dr. Jacobs for high price levels, and attempts to retain wage differentials. That brings down the wrath of OPA, WPB and Economic Stabilization, for it runs contrary to wartime programs designed to stimulate maximum production and check inflation. But when the CIO Textile Workers Union brings its own protest it follows the same line, and its action likewise threatens our domestic security program.

For CIO's Emil Reiss says that the hourly wage boom from 50 to 55 cents is not enough. He says that the War Labor Board, because it cannot correct substandard wages until Judge Vinson agrees, has lost its standing and power. So he relieves 100,000 textile workers of their no-strike pledge, and changes the threat to an industry already struggling to catch up on its quotas.

Both sides, you see, seek aims which Washington considers beyond reason. And each side must see its hopes dashed, merely because there is not one, all-powerful agency which can settle the case, once and for all. The time has come again, as it has so often before in the life of the New Deal, that we must have a reshuffling of authority. If we are to bring peace to the industry, we need overall agency empowered to oversee the whole vast problem of wages, prices, economic stabilization and labor practices. Regardless of whether right rests with management or labor in the textile case, it is a most desirable change that brings Federal agencies into disagreement, and thus prolongs the struggle in a time of crisis.

R. A. Dunn

There wasn't any mistaking the distinction or the humility of Mr. R. A. Dunn. He stood of unusual height and of bearing in which was mixed courtliness and reserve, probably compounded of timidity, he looked what he was: a successful man, with a long and distinguished career behind him, yet one who was so sensitive to himself to think that he had done all that he would have liked to do.

Partly for this reason, in all probability, his religious and benevolent undertakings multiplied at a time when most men began to withdraw from civic affairs. The Commercial National Bank, a great institution in whose development he had played a long and influential part, was always his pride, but more the attention and the thought which made his service on the college's Board of Trustees so valuable.

The full record of his philanthropies will never be compiled. Not only were they large, and a bulwark of many a community institution, they were also intensive. His generosity followed his sympathies in that regard, and both testify to the kindness which always was characteristic of him.

Convictions he had, and they were immutable. He had, if gone without saying, the courage to do what he thought he should do. Indeed, it likely never occurred to him to do what he had determined he shouldn't do. His decision and action were inseparable.

And so it was that he pursued the even tenor of his way down the corridor of time, unwavering save under the impulse of his kindness, until the 82nd year of his life. Then he died, possessed

Statesmen At Work

(Serious, facetious and comic excerpts from the Congressional Record.)
REP. RICH (Pa.) discussing a flood control bill:
I want to see flood-control projects built in my district, but I want them built when we have the manpower available to put them on this construction, and not take them away from war industries.
MR. BAILEY, Mr. Chairman, will the gentleman yield?
MR. RICH, Yes, I yield.
MR. BAILEY, I was very much impressed with the self-appointed watchdog of the Treasury.
MR. RICH, Now, I do not yield any more.
MR. BAILEY, I wonder where the gentleman was when they built the Capitol.
MR. RICH, I do not yield further, Mr. Chairman. I am here to save the country, not my own. If the New Dealers are going to come and squander the money of the people, I will find out that some day we will

even unto the end of the character and the qualities, even almost of the appearance, which had made him a pillar of his community.

Bingo!

Ah, bingo! One of the ancient and natural fables of man, it is. We shudder to think that it may someday vanish from the earth, that kingly kernels of corn may be put to some baser use. May there forever be, somewhere under the sun, a barker calling forth to the faithful, "Under I, fourteen-one; under O, fourteen-seven." May we never throttle the innocent who leads us to cover the numbers on the board, beady-eyed and alert, with a fearful consciousness of the neighbor on the next seat.

We have evidence before us that this bingo is as old as the race, or almost. It was known in the back rooms of Cro-Magnon caves, and after some thousands of years graduated to a high place in the regular sessions of the Atrium-nacian Uplift Society. Early, it existed on the banks of the Nile.

Representative J. B. Vesper, who sees the incongruity of banning the noble sport under the laws against common gambling, is doing battle in its name. He seeks, with the tacit consent of the balance of Mecklenburg's delegation, to make it legal so long as it is sponsored by civic, charitable or trade associations. In short, it matters not whether bingo is a form of gambling. The cause in which the tale is collected and dispensed means everything. Bingo thus remains a horse of two colors, a jekyll-hyde game of chance.

If it be blessed by organizations opposed to gambling in its many forms, then it shall be accepted. But do not despair. It was ever thus. This innocent pastime of pitting the individual against the laws of percentage has long existed, half clandestine, half free. And the Vesper bill is in the interest of the common citizen; henceforth he may hunch over his board at the fair in good conscience, with never a law over his shoulder for the charging millions of the law.

Protection Needed

We had thought, in our pure and simple faith, that the Social Security Act was so worded and formed as to take care of the soldier. Our faith was based on plain common sense and belief that if the Social Security Act rights did not apply to protect all our fighting men, then the G. I. Bill of Rights did. Our faith was misplaced. By the law, in some instances (and even one instance would be too many) the soldier loses all his claim for social security benefits. The law of course, in the government phrasology which makes it extremely difficult for the everyday mind to dig through the where-ases and wherefores and find out exactly what is meant.

But many conditions must be met for a person to have "fully insured" status under the law. And those conditions are sometimes difficult for our soldier to fulfill—unless the army changed mightily and released its members to return to their jobs and have enough quarters of work to their credit.

Only when a person has an insured status is he able to obtain an okayed claim. In order that a claim may be paid to the survivors of the deceased soldier he must have either a fully insured or a currently insured status. And that is the catch.
It happens all too often nowadays, that a young widow with a child, goes to the Social Security Board and tries to make a claim. The law says nothing the board can do. Say a soldier has been overseas for two or more years. He has had no time to come home and keep up his social security payments. They lapse, just as an insurance policy lapses when the insured does not pay. The law says he has worked for a certain length of time—prior to his entry in the service of his country—his survivors have no benefits paid them.

All the benefits paid are small. But they may mean the difference between a life of struggle and a life of ease. It is necessary for the young mother who faces the task of rearing a fatherless child.

Laws have often provided loopholes to those who would beat the government out of a job.

We suggest a nice shiny loophole be amended to the present Social Security Law to enable soldiers and their families to crawl through to its protection.

The Merry-Go-Round

By Drew Pearson

WASHINGTON
SUPREME Allied leaders are now in a position where they expect the war with Germany to end any day; but they don't want to make the same over-optimistic mistake they did last Fall, when they were confident hostilities would finish before Christmas.

At present, German prisoners are reported being taken on the Western Front as the result of about 1,600 a day, but there seems to be no general breakdown of German Army morale. During three weeks in late January and early February, the American 7th Army and French 1st Army took over 15,000 Nazi prisoners, which is a good haul. But it does not mean that large blocs of the German Army are surrendering en masse, as the Italians did in North Africa.

Judging by all the standards of the last war, Germany should have capitulated long ago. It was on Sept. 22, 1918, six weeks before the armistice, that Ludendorff and Hindenburg made up their minds that defeat was inevitable. At that time, as now, it was the civilian Government in Berlin, which wanted to resist longer.

One of the significant documents of the last war was Hindenburg's reply to Prince Max of Baden, who had formed a new German Government and who appealed to Hindenburg on Oct. 2, 1918, to resign as field marshal.

Hindenburg, replying next day, was brief and to the point. He wrote:
The supreme command insists on its demand of Sunday, 23rd September, that a peace offer to our enemies be issued at once."

However, the civilian Government in Berlin still held out, and it took until Nov. 11 to arrange an armistice.

Peace Rumors

Knowing just what is going on inside Germany today regarding an armistice is one of the Allied handicaps. The scant amount of information leaks out via the neutral countries. It is reported, for instance, that German business leaders would like to use Hjalmar Schacht or Franz von Papen as peace negotiators. But

there is no definite indication that Hitler himself or Himmler is ready for peace. On the contrary, there are definite indications that they are determined to fight fanatically to the end.

This time, the Nazi leaders have organized a senseless "New Year" day with the result that they have maintained the whip hand so far over any German military leader who may pine for peace.

Finally the Volksturm or People's Army, thrown in to fill the gaps in the regular army, has made up its ferocity what it lacks in experience.

Weighing all these factors, top Allied military strategists figure the war in Europe probably won't end before April 1, and should not last longer than July 1. But in this war anything can happen.

Insurance Lobby

The insurance lobby is headed for trouble regarding its bill to exempt insurance companies from the Sherman Anti-Trust Act. If the lobbyists aren't careful they will get a White route veto.

The bill passed the Senate in a form which met with all-round approval. But in the House, the insurance lobby shranked its as and quietly drafted some amendments which will not be acceptable either to the White House or, probably, to a majority of the Senate.

Chief effect of the amendments was to make it impossible to revive the Anti-Trust Act regarding insurance companies, without a special act of Congress.

Full-armed Senator O'Mahoney of Wyoming, who was quite willing to give the insurance companies a reasonable compromise, will fight this extra graft to the end. So will a great many of his colleagues.

Capital Chaff

The War Department's G-2 or military intelligence is being reorganized again, partly as a result of failures to spot Nazi troop concentrations preparing for the blitz attack in mid-December.

Tom Clark, astute assistant attorney general in charge of the criminal division, would like to retire to practice law in Texas, but topicals in the Justice Department are trying to persuade him to stay on.

Two of the most Nazi saboteurs and sent them to the gallows. Senator Glenn Taylor of Idaho has used only five gallons of gas since arriving in Washington—an example which could be emulated by a lot of other bigwigs.

SIDE GLANCES By Galbraith



"It's Dad, and he says to 'put two shovels of coal in the furnace—the man he's bringing to dinner must be more important than we are!"

Dream Of Yalta

By Dorothy Thompson

SHARING the universal relief that the Crimean conference resulted in strengthening relations between the Big Three on which the future peace depends, we must also admit that our problems are not over, but are, in fact, only beginning.

The agreement does not clear up the future of Germany. We still do not know whether there will be a single German state or several.

The agreement actually creates a political vacuum which must be taken during the occupation of Germany.

These three terms the Union of German Officers in Moscow is bypassed. Von Seydlitz and Paulus have been calling for a "strong German Government" which is a re-organized democratic army to protect the country against a revival of the Weimar Republic.

This is incompatible with total and permanent disarmament, and one is led to wonder whether Stalin did not organize it as a weapon to hold over the heads of the Western Allies.

The question of what constitutes a war criminal or "Nazi influence" will be much harder to settle than that of the first glance. And there is already considerable divergence of view on the subject.

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It reports from Romania are correct. The Communists on War Crime in London, in which, I believe, the Russians are not even represented, has all been broken into the matter of definition.

It is my belief that the Russians are carrying their part of Germany, will know what they are working for, while the Western Allies will squabble about it. In a future column I would like to suggest how this divergence is likely to work out.

People's Platform

Editors, The News:
Any argument that the liquor, beer and wine group can produce like the alibi of the gutty producer, is a thing which is making an effort to prove that "he was not where he was when he was, and did not do what he did."

North Carolina does not need the revenue; its citizens do not need the product; our children do not need a nation of addicts. The only way to heal the nation is to carry out a national service. We need the May-Haley plan as a national service of production, not as a revenue source.

The New Bedford story will make a certain amount of sense to a free man who reads it in his newspaper. But a man who is not free will read it in a different way. It will seem to the servileman, living under his own heavy sense of servitude, that his people back home are being sold into slavery.

The separation between the servileman and the free man is the great psychological war, and it must be won. The only way to win it is to carry out a national service. We need the May-Haley plan as a national service of production, not as a revenue source.

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Rock Of Ages



Roosevelt And The French

By Marquis Childs

PARIS
To a certain degree it is true that he has used American opposition to solidify his position in this country. In his speech de Gaulle stresses the desperate transportation picture in France—the fact that the German occupation 4,000 cars were used to haul fuel for civilians and even at the moment this never fell below 11,000, while on Jan. 21 of this year it was only 7,000 cars.

He does not say, however, that American cars have brought in hundreds of new locomotives, and that they are being used to haul coal to the French for civilian use.

One factor in the French attitude toward America is our bombing before the liberation. French men in the Government have told me that we are getting the blame we do not deserve and that if we made a real effort we could get across to the French people the true story of bombings and our part in them.

This, incidentally, is likely to color the attitude throughout Europe. By one of those curious coincidences always occurring, I shared a compartment on the Paris-to-Brussels train with Walter Farr, whom I had known in Washington as correspondent for the London Daily Mail. Coming from eight months in Stockholm, he told me that many Swedes are now believing that the American bombing is responsible for the destruction of the continent.

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The Plaintiff Of The Serviceman

By Samuel Grafton

NEW YORK
THE American serviceman does not resent his food, his clothing, his sleeping quarters. What he resents, what he resents, is the fact that he is not a free man. He is where he is by someone's order, and he does what he is ordered to do. He is not a free man. He is where he is by someone's order, and he does what he is ordered to do.

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Quote, Unquote

The engineering age is only a couple of hundred years old and we are fast approaching the evolution. Scientific progress during the war has given us a wealth of new ideas and many of the ideas that were used.

We also want to thank your newspaper for the substantial donations made to this cause.

W. F. PHILLIPS, Charlotte.

Alone, planes like very heavy bombers will not win the war, but they will destroy factories, big and small, and without factories the Axis can fight for long.

W. F. PHILLIPS, Charlotte.