

The Unholy Alliance at Work

The unholy alliance of Republicans and Southern Democrats has been quite active this week, receiving all due credit for the final, complete emancipation of the President's housing bill in the House of Representatives.

It may be that the pressure brought by those groups labeled by Chester Bowles as "selfish, greedy lobbyists" was a determining factor in the decision of the Southern Democrats to vote against the bill.

So far as the Southerners were concerned, it seems likely that the great majority of them acted in all sincerity. Judge Ervin, our own Representative, probably expressed the prevailing view when he said: "Apparently some people think the only way to protect anything from a housing shortage is to extract money from the Federal Treasury by subsidies."

Strike Out 'Nazi', Write In 'Red'

The reaction of official Washington to Winston Churchill's Westminster speech was a little frightening, for it turned back the clock a full decade. Here was a score of Congressmen publicly applauding Mr. Churchill's blunt attack on Russian "expansionism" and in the same breath viciously denouncing his proposal for concrete action to check it.

Happy as they were over such a forthright attack on Russian tactics as a Senator John W. Breckinridge and Brewster of Maine could see an alliance with Britain only as an instrument that would "impose upon us the duty of enforcing Britain's foreign policy."

But the Congressional spokesmen were, for the most part, the same gentlemen who

eral expenditures outweighs any other consideration—even the plight of thousands of their constituents made homeless through service to their country.

Tragic as was their specific action against the Housing Bill, the formal, open, cheerful alliance of the Southerners with the also Republican Party is even more disturbing, for it bids fair to continue throughout the remainder of the Truman Administration. By guaranteeing an overwhelming opposition to the President, the defection of the Southerners also guarantees a continuation of the aimless drift that has marked the transition from war to peace.

And the South as a region will, of course, suffer particularly from the obstructionist course of its Representatives. Their action can only be negative, for they have become men without a party in a Government based on the party system; abandoning Democratic policy, they can create none of their own, for they have no voice in the Party to which they now give allegiance, a Party that for practical purposes does not exist in the South.

Inevitably, the unholy alliance leaves this entire region without a positive voice in Congress. The South can contribute nothing to the national effort in this moment of crisis; if we receive nothing in return there will be no reason for Southerners to be surprised.

Strike Out 'Nazi', Write In 'Red'

are most desirous of getting tough with Russia, the gentlemen who applauded loudst when Secretary Byrnes spoke the other day. "If necessary, if necessary, if necessary." They are the theoretical champions of the UNO, but they are also prepared to fight the good fight to prevent UNO from obtaining any sovereign power over the member nations.

These are the gentlemen who want to guarantee American rights everywhere in the world, but who also want to bring every American soldier home. They are the Congressmen who have stood by while our Army and our Navy disintegrated, and who have themselves cheerfully contributed to that disintegration.

And here they are, insisting that America take a firm stand in opposition to Communist attacks on American life. They are offering military assistance from America's last friend in all the world.

There used to be a name for that sort of double-talk. Isolationism, wasn't it?

The Long Week-End Of Pete McGaha

ALTHOUGH they have long since grown accustomed to such goings-on, a few South Carolina newspapers are mildly excited over the departure of Pete McGaha, a convicted murderer, who was granted a furlough from the penitentiary to visit his mother who is expected to come back this, according to The Spartanburg Herald, is an old habit of McGaha's; back in 1941 Governor Maybank also favored the life-terminer with a brief leave of absence which culminated some months later in his recapture in Oklahoma.

Governor Williams protests that he gave McGaha the leave of absence on recommendation of Penitentiary Superintendent Ashley, and that the Governor naturally would have no knowledge of his previous record. Superintendent Ashley concurs, announcing his willingness to accept the entire blame. And there, we presume, the matter will rest, for as the Governor says, the Constitution empowers him to use his judgment in the matter of "pardons, paroles and commutation," and those powers are not rescinded even when his judgment is bad.

And Governor Williams, in becoming the recipient of a round of editorial criticism in the McGaha matter, is joining a distin-

gushed company. Scarcely a Governor of South Carolina since the late Cole Blesse, who, according to a popular Columbia legend, wound up his term of office by opening the penitentiary rates and announcing that the last one who was a rotten egg had escaped some degree of condemnation for his exercise of pardoning and/or paroling powers. There have been frequent whippers of corruption in high places, some of them even finding their way into the records of Legislative investigating committees.

We are not in any sense belittling critical of our good neighbors to the South when we remark upon Pete McGaha's abnormally long week-end. Such criticism would, we think, be in very bad grace; even though South Carolina seems to have unusual difficulty in hanging onto life-terminers, her courts at least hand down the proper sentence in cases that seem to warrant it. In the end it makes little difference whether a man who murders another in cold blood terminates his tour in the penitentiary by executive order at the end of, say 15 years, as happens so often in South Carolina, or whether the court which tries him hands down an original sentence of only 15 years, which is an unhappily common practice in North Carolina.

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Another Voice

Terry's Invaluable Accent

WHAT was surely the happiest solution of any kidnaping case in many years was brought about at Annapolis because of a well-mannered little girl's Southern accent and the ability of a naval officer and his wife to detect the difference between it and a Middle Western twang. Had it not been for four-year-old Terry Taylor it would have been a tragedy, for her kidnappers, who were differentiated here from her kidnappers by the fact that they were not, in fact, kidnappers, might have remained yet another unsolved mystery.

It is fairly obvious that the young woman who disappeared from Charlotte, N. C., with little Terry isn't a vicious type. Nevertheless, she did carry the child off, and who can say what strange thought processes were taking place in the convulsions of her mind? Who can say that, for an accent, the girls would have ever seen their little daughter again? "Accent is the soul of talk; it gives it feeling and verity." So observed an Eighteenth Century Frenchman, Jean-Jacques Rousseau. There are 60 people who find a southern accent "cute" and others who

find it insufferable. There are those who can spot a Southern accent accurately as to its native state and even as to the section of that state; while others, lacking the ear for such nuances, lump together all accents south of Mason and Dixon's line and call it 'possum dialect.

But nobody can deny that there is a Southern accent—it persists today, in spite of the tendency of the frisky radio voice to overstep the national speech; in spite of misguided educational zeal; in spite of increasing standardization everywhere. There it is: pleasanter in some cases than in others; but cultivated or crude, charming or merely mouthwash. It is always there, inescapable, undisguised, the soul of the talk of those who speak it.

No matter what anyone may think of the Southern accent, we know Terry's parents are thanking Heaven for it today. —The Baltimore Sun.

Possibly as baffling as any—to the British bride of the GI—will be an American custom of dropping the paper tag along with the tea ball into the tea.



People's Platform

The Bitter And The Sweet

CHARLOTTE—The news has been mildly interested in the letters readers have submitted to you, Peoples Platform, recently on the Mr. Breger cartoon series. It is my own impression that it is a very good feature—and The News has a number of excellent commentaries on the cartoon or cut lines that are designed to go along with it. One would have to possess an outstanding sense of humor to readily grasp the point when a careless make-up man deletes the caption as this case in your issue of February 28 and this happens rather frequently to Mr. Breger.

Speaking of newspapers—you fellows are doing a swell job when you carry a series like the recent Burke Davis report on liquor control in the Eastern part of the state. More power to you! Your explanatory editor's note about presenting a fair, unbiased survey, neither FOR nor AGAINST control was well put, and Reporter Davis lived up to it in all his writings. Any self-styled "editor" who labels the series "propaganda" is not worthy of the title, though chances are few people would have read the uncompromising editorial had it not been re-printed in the News.

Now for liquor along with the sweet. . . I am a regular News reader. I like your sheet, but WHY the promiscuous use of by-lines? The Burke Davis series on liquor control, for instance, goes for just about anything he writes—but some days your second front page looks more like a city directory than a newspaper. And, if you must use by-lines, why not stick to real names, or non-phonetic, rather than a combination of physical disability and surname, as in the case of "Guzler" McGintis, etc.

If you would profit by the experience, a certain colleague quipped once that he got just as good results by rewarding their reporters with theater passes rather than awarding by-lines to run-of-the-mine stories. You might try it. Then perhaps you would have space for captions under the Mr. Breger cartoons.

At any rate, my hat's off to you as long as you carry authoritative stories like the Davis series on alcoholic beverage control, and I believe I reflect the opinion of a vast majority of your thinking readers.

(NOTE: Freebies as charming as those adorning Miss Spry are a decided asset.—Eds., The News.)

THE Dry Facts CHARLOTTE—In your recent editorial "It Won't Help" you referred to that remarkable film "The Lost Week-End" by warning those who are opposed to liquor that the abolition of the liquor traffic for the reason that at the end of the film a male nurse is heard to say "I don't know how long they were really terrible during prohibition."

The plain facts are different from this attendant's recollection. The fact that these were foreign nations and had something to say about their own territory apparently made no difference to the General.

Only the restraining hand of Sumner Welles, then Undersecretary of State, prevented trouble. Toward the end of the war, Mr. Marshall was held responsible for drafting a directive, later issued under Roosevelt's name, ordering the State Department to keep permanent peacetime military bases in Brazil and Ecuador. This directive gave the State Department no alternative in the matter. It was commanded to secure these bases—regardless of the wishes of the Latin American countries whose soil was involved.

This brazen attitude regarding peacetime bases is one reason for the efforts to cool off Pan-American goodwill. Various Latin American countries were glad to give us bases during the war as an emergency measure, but they do not want American troops permanently on their soil.

NOTE—The proposed appointment of Gen. Marshall as Secretary of State appears to be part of the growing trend toward militarizing the U. S. diplomatic service. Truman has

to insure institutions for alcoholic psychoses declined to a marked degree.

Since "The News" is carrying on a studied and diligent campaign for liquor stores in Charlotte, it might be well to give the other side of the picture.

It has been claimed that more people suffered from alcoholism during prohibition because the illicit liquor was poisonous. What are the facts? Take the case of the Connecticut State Hospital from 1908 to 1929. The war years, 1918-1919, are omitted as abnormal. From 1908 to 1917 all admissions at the rate per 10,000 population was 3.71 and the admissions for alcoholic psychoses based on 10,000 population dropped from 271 to 329 and the admissions for alcoholic psychoses based on the per cent of total admissions dropped from 18.78 to 2.4. (From Professor Irvin Fisher, of Yale University, Noble Experiment.)

Prior to prohibition, the "graduates" from the Keely Institute, a famous psychiatric hospital, published a paper called "The Banter of Alcohol" which listed 123 branch Keely Cures in the United States. By 1922, under prohibition, all but fourteen of these branches closed for lack of patients. Before prohibition there was also a chain of over 100 Neal and over 50 Gatlin drug institutes, none of which survived the drought. In the State of Minnesota there were eleven inebriate hospitals, all but two of which succumbed in the long dry spell.

In your zeal to put over liquor stores on the people of Mecklenburg County I am sure you will not object to giving some of the facts furnished by those who have ardently opposed to this effort. Make Charlotte the liquor metropolis of North Carolina, and we call upon people of all faiths to do the same. This propaganda before being deceived into this fatal slip.

—P. C. RODWELL.

'Those You Work For . . . CHARLOTTE—THANK you so much for your kind words about the Mint Museum. It is heartening to have you give the I thought I did it on my single handed. Perhaps in my doing, I made the mistake of trying to make the gospel of art too free here. My husband says the best thing I ever did for the Museum was to resign now it is the job of the Trustees instead of mine. Anyway, I shall always look to the Mint like the old nanny and if a difficult child she had nursed, "Those who work for you, loves."

I shall always love the Museum and hope I shall always be able to contribute to it. —MRS. LEWIS C. BURWELL.

The People's Platform is available to any reader who cares to submit it. Communications should be sent to the editor, Peoples Platform, P. O. Box 100, on only one side of the paper. Libel and obscenity will be deleted—otherwise anything goes. Each letter must be signed, although in exceptional cases and upon request we will withhold the writer's name.—Editors, The News.

providing somewhat lower minimum wages. As the time the Administration proposal was reported out, Senators' desire to secure a minimum wage would put every corner grocery and hardware store in the country out of business. It was only through the intervention of Leo C. Hagan, Washington representative of the CIO's United Retail, Wholesale and Department Store Employees of America, who pointed out that businesses doing less than \$500,000 a year would be ruined.

SENATOR THANEED Goodman thanked the Senator, knowing the tribute would do him no harm with his union even if it was not strictly true.

In executive session, members of the Truman Administration, one after the other, argued for the minimum wage. The predecessor in the Office of Economic Stabilization, John Caside, Reconstruction Director John W. Schwellenbach, and former Secretary of the Interior Ickes went all the way to the end of the line. Some members of the Senate Labor Committee expressed a fear that the bill would contribute to war inflation, particularly in the food and clothing industries, where labor costs are a major factor and where scarcity of goods has increased black markets. Howler's answer to this was that, where the stabilization director had been increased, there would have inflationary consequences, the provisions of the act had been suspended for a year or six months.

The final result may be a compromise. Amendments offered on the floor by the Senate would increase below 60 cents. Knowing the bill is bound to pass in some form, toward pressure groups are trying to get it passed. The point, however, is that the Administration has demonstrated that it will not back down when necessary. A little more of it would help the President's program.

Bertram Benedict Historic Strikes

WASHINGTON—The General Motors strike is now past its 100th day. In the past, other strikes have lasted longer.

After all, the General Motors strike has shut down the automobile industry. It is true that other groups in the industry have had to make do with what they can get. They cannot get essential parts made by General Motors and its subsidiaries. Yet the nation can manage to struggle along without as many new automobiles and trucks, electric refrigerators, and air-conditioning units as it had hoped to get soon. In that respect the GM strike has been far less serious than a railroad strike would have been, or the steel strike if this one had lasted longer. (The steel strike ended after about a month; some 750,000 or 800,000 workers were involved against 175,000 at General Motors.)

UNUSUAL STRIKES Strikes which capture the public imagination are apt to be novel ones (the Boston police strike of 1919, the San Francisco general strike of 1934, the automobile strike of 1937). Or those which are represented as a prelude to revolution (the Seattle general strike of 1919, the steel strike of 1919, the strike of the miners in 1902, the Colorado Coal & Iron strike of 1913-14).

An attempt is frequently made to estimate the money cost of strikes by the number of working days a day's wage of the number of days on strike, and the cost in the company's output. This average daily value of output by the number of days without output, by the economist's method, is far too simple. Few industries run full blast in normal years throughout the year. It is only at that shutdown because of strike are merely eliminate a shut-down loss. It is a minimum loss. The automobile industry had been expected to shut down for a

change-over to new models when the demand for the present models had been met. An increase in the coal strike meant fewer days of idleness for the miners later.

LOBBIES INTANGIBLE Also, there is certain plants may mean greater employment and increased activity in other plants. And many strikers find other jobs. But there is a long-range intangible loss in the breaking of work habits and the breaking of relations between workers and management, in the removal of families from communities which they had sunk roots, etc.

The great anthracite strike of 1902 had lasted for almost four months before it caused fuel crisis so acute that President Theodore Roosevelt intervened to force settlement. The coal strike of 1927 lasted more than two years before it collapsed and all but ended union organization in the bituminous mines for several years.

HOMESTAD WAR LANDMARK In the Homestead strike of 1892 only 100 men were involved, but the strike was a landmark because of a pitched battle between strikers and a private detective in which seven of the former and three of the latter were killed. The Pullman strike of 1894 and the Pullman general railroad strike when railroad unions refused to handle trains carrying Pullman cars. The steel was broken by the Government. The Cleveland Administration got into the matter by using the army under the anti-trust law, and sent Federal troops to maintain law and order and to avert insurrection.

One of the latest strikes on record was that of the typographers in 1921 for a 44-hour week. After more than a year of struggle, they achieved it, but many others went on. In 1921, the Pullman Co. achieved its policy of not dealing with "outsiders" in labor disputes, and after the Homestead strike, showing the union leaders, accepted the check-off and the closed shop.

Men Fight Sharks MORE than a thousand men were struggling in the water. A party of them sent by sharks. But it was a routine party. At 11:24 A. M. Aug. 2, three days after the ship sank, that a search was started. Two months later, in October 1945, the Navy awarded Capt. Granum the Legion of Merit with a glowing citation which read: "For exceptionally meritorious conduct in the performance of outstanding service. For the provision of all the successful accomplishment of his duties, required skillful employment of ships and planes and exact knowledge of the locations of shipping. . . . By his devotion to duty and his untiring efforts, he has achieved outstanding success. His conduct was at all times in keeping with the highest traditions of the United States Navy."

Drew Pearson's 'Marshal Rumor is Bad News To Latins'

WASHINGTON—WHITE HOUSE reports that President Truman plans to fire his old friend Jimmy Byrnes as Secretary of State and replace him with Gen. George Marshall have sent shivers of apprehension up and down the spinal columns of Latin American diplomats.

They recall that it was Gen. Marshall who during the early days of the war wrote the most high-handed directives regarding Latin American sovereignty since Frank B. Kellogg sent the Marines to Nicaragua.

Ignoring the fact that Brazil and Ecuador both were anxious to co-operate in the war and became our allies, Marshall demanded that certain bases be seized by the United States immediately. The fact that these were sovereign nations and had something to say about their own territory apparently made no difference to the General.

NOTE—The proposed appointment of Gen. Marshall as Secretary of State appears to be part of the growing trend toward militarizing the U. S. diplomatic service. Truman has

new appointed Gen. Bedell Smith as Ambassador to Russia, Admiral Alan Kirk as Ambassador to Belgium, Gen. John Hildring as Assistant Secretary of State, Gen. Frank Ruesch as Ambassador to Panama, and Gen. Marshall arriving as Ambassador to China.

Atomic Dictators I try hard to believe, but Army brass hats are blocking the return to the USA of Dr. Nils Bohr, Danish prize winner and the father of modern atomic science.

They don't want it known, but the Army has also turned thumbs down on a visit by Joliot-Curie, Madame Curie's son, another atomic scientist, on the grounds that they don't want American scientists talking to foreign scientists.

What Price Navy Awards HERE is one reason why Naval reserves aren't jumping with alacrity to sign up again in Secretary Forrestal's Navy. It escaped unnoticed, but one officer charged with negligence in sinking the USS Indianapolis actually was awarded the Legion of Merit.

Furthermore, he got this honor, one of the highest in the Navy, for the sinking of the Indianapolis. The successful commander when the Navy should have known he had been negligent. The officer in question is Capt. A. N. Granum, who has the

difficult distinction of holding the Legion of Merit and also an official reprimand, both covering duty at the same time and place.

Perhaps the secret of his Legion of Merit is that Granum was an Amphipod graduate. Anyway, when the Indianapolis was overdue at Leyte, Capt. Granum had its route, speed and estimated time of arrival plotted on a map. He was successful in locating it 48 hours and corrected every eight hours, showed that the Indianapolis was long overdue. A written report covering a 24-hour period from the time the Indianapolis was overdue, was shown Capt. Granum.

It was then his duty to organize a search, using all available ships and planes. This was not done.

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The Navy now states that in view of the official reprimand given Granum, his Legion of Merit will be withdrawn. However, a few severe officers and men who won their decorations the hard way are now wondering whether all Annapolis grads get Legions of Merit so easily.