

# Congress Ignores The Handwriting

We have remarked here before upon the singular spectacle of the Congress of the United States apparently turning a deaf ear to the pleas of the average citizen, who also happens to be the average voter, upon the very eve of an election. This phenomenon has occurred in the matter of extending OPA, which the Senate intends to accomplish by removing price ceilings on such necessities as meat and wheat, while leaving them on such luxuries as liquor and television sets.

It strikes us that two weeks without ceilings should provide the gentlemen on the Hill with a reasonable preview of things to come. Of course, there has been the threat of a return to Federal price controls and the best cause of most producers to keep their prices down and their goods off the market. Even so, *The New York Times* finds, at the end of the second week, that food prices are up from 10 to 20 per cent on the average, that department stores are predicting a rise of 10 to 20 per cent in their next clothing inventories, and that rent is going up by about 15 per cent in states that have no controls of their own. And *The Times* (which does not favor the OPA, by the way), recognizes that this is a mere beginning, reflecting increased profits raised by the increased cost which will come snowballing later. Of more price, which the Republican Party officially predicted would level out by last week-end, *The Times* reported:

Reports from the wholesale markets indicated that consumers would pay still more. Prime steers brought the highest price in history, selling for a 23 and a half hundredweight, compared with a 22 of \$18 under the OPA control. The highest price for a 12 and a half hundredweight shipped to the Midwest slaughter houses. Farmers, who for weeks had saved their cattle in expectation of a market through the OPA roof, rushed cattle to the market. When the present July prices and market beef is again below demand further increases are inevitable.

A little simple figuring on the back of an old envelope should give the Congress a picture of what has already happened to the income of the average citizen, and voter. He spends most of his money for goods and services in the categories directly and immediately affected by the end of OPA: 40 per cent for food, 13 1/2 per cent for clothing, and 16 1/2 per cent for rent. This means, to keep our figures rough, that the average gain of 15 per cent in food, clothing, and rent has already reduced the average citizen's income by 10 per cent, and unless we are greatly mistaken he is 30 per cent poorer.

We would like to believe that the Senate, in cheerfully ignoring the clear political implications of its action on OPA, is following a statesmanlike course. We concede the possibility that some, at least, of the gentlemen of the Upper House seriously fear, as usually by writing off anything that doesn't agree with their theories as propaganda. *Mene, mene, tenei, upharis* has been ignored before when it became distinctly visible on the walls of the Capitol.

But there is another, more cynical explanation, advanced by an August *Times*, which might account for the Senatorial effort to free certain major items from price controls. With the exception of rent, of course, the necessities come originally from the farm, and last week's logging, which freed virtually every item of farm produce of price control, was largely the effort of Southern and Western Senators who represent rural constituencies. They were, therefore, taking care of their own, who have something to sell, while Senators representing predominantly urban states, even some of the most rock-ribbed Republicans, generally joined the Administration in the effort to salvage a workable price control bill.

This might give rise to a hope that the House will be a little more temperate in its handling of the measure. Representatives, even some of the most rock-ribbed than Senators, and many of those from the 28 predominantly rural states may nevertheless depend upon an urban area for political support. Here the overall breakdown of the population of the United States—44,742,702 urban, to 37,245,579 rural—may very well have a pronounced effect on the voting. Also, every Representative faces an election in November while only a third of the Senators are so burdened.

But it's a thin hope. The House, by rejecting the Senate bill yesterday, sent the measure to the Joint Conference committee for redrafting, and, despite the optimism of a few of OPA's proponents, there is little chance that anything good will happen to it there. It may restore a flexible ceiling on rents and a few other less important items in the cost of living, but it seems certain to contain the vestiges of Senator Taft's cost-plus plan which, even if Mr. Truman accepts it, guarantees a steady price rise across the board.

# Mr. Broughton Suggests A Trade

In the midst of one of these uncertain seasons when citizens of the ilk of Bilbo and Talmadge are poking up the old fires of prejudice it's good to find a few reasonable Southerners still discussing the South in terms of its derelict economy. And it is all to the credit of North Carolina that Governor Broughton, who is one of them, manages to hew to the line even while he is tending his political fences.

Governor Broughton, addressing the American Farm Bureau Federation at Blue Ridge, relegated the racial question to its proper place as one facet of the great task facing the region as a whole. He referred to that ample collection of statistics which demonstrates the scope of the problem. Item: "With soil and climate ideally suited to dairy production, we do not produce enough milk for our own consumption, in spite of the fact that our average per capita consumption of milk is less than half the national average."

But if the South's economic deficiencies are a problem they are also an opportunity, Mr. Broughton argues. There is nothing original about his general solution—more education for the people. It is an old solution to keep repeating his admonition:

# Another Voice

Listen to this incomparable idiocy from a corporation president who is at the same time vice-president of the National Association of Manufacturers. In the communication from him there is a sentence which bears it is not necessary to have anything under heaven except that reasonableness and intelligence. With those qualities universal there would be no need for Government, for an Army or Navy, no schools, for a church, for a school, for a bank, for a law, or the National Association of Manufacturers.

"If everyone will be reasonable and intelligent..."

What are the chances, Mr. Vice-President of the National Association of Manufacturers? Your Old Testament will tell you that Almighty God did not count on everyone being reasonable and intelligent. Your New Testament will tell you that Jesus Christ said:

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Any discussion of OPA is *post mortem*, but we feel constrained to note the irony inherent in the fact that Congress is yielding to the demands of the nation's farmers, who will suffer far more than any other class of citizens when inflation comes in earnest.

# Important Forests

I HAVE just received a copy of the "Carolina Farmer" as published weekly by The Charlotte News. Permits me to express the interest of this office in the articles and cartoons in that issue which refer to the forests of this State. The editor, particularly to the forest fire control phase of that program. This office is temporarily through an Assistant Forester whose primary duty is the provision of press articles and other activities of an information and education nature. I am hopeful of again having the honor of serving you in the near future and should like to have one whose responsibilities consist of supplying similar items which you issue. It is difficult to see the importance of the North Carolina economy, both farm and otherwise, of the 17 million acres of the State's land area which is in forest. Obviously, this approximately 50 per cent of our area must be properly handled for the good of present and succeeding generations.

W. K. BEICHER, STATE FORESTER.

# Veterans' College

I WANT to personally express my appreciation to you and to the staff of *The News* for the most valuable contribution that you have made in helping to acquaint the young people of this community with the college plan which Governor Cherry and the North Carolina College Foundation is inaugurating. The Charlotte newspapers have been most helpful in bringing to the attention of the public the fact that a real college is being organized in Charlotte with work similar in character and kind to that given on the college campuses themselves. The heavy preliminary enrollment justifies our interest in seeing that the size of the project. Mr. Young, Mr. Fesperman,

HERE is the inside story on the sudden appointment of John Leighton, Ambassador to China. Originally President Truman planned to appoint Lieutenant Colonel William H. Slaughter as Ambassador to China. Slaughter's nomination had already been typed and was on the President's desk. However, last week General Marshall sent Truman an urgent note advising that he had finally found one man who could act as Ambassador and who was on good terms with both the Communists and the Chiang Kai-Shek group. Marshall also pointed out that Stuart had lived in China for 50 years and spoke fluent Chinese.

Two hours later, President Truman nominated J. Leighton Stuart to be American Ambassador to China.

# Truman Gets His Man

IT WAS the direct hand of the President of the United States which brought the kiss of death to Roger C. Slaughter of Kansas City, Democrat Congressman from the district next to Truman's. Slaughter has opposed almost every piece of Truman legislation before Congress. Despite denials from Democratic headquarters, here's what actually happened: Truman turned the nomination to Bryce B. Smith, a former major of Kansas City, stating that something had to be done regarding the Fifth Congressional race and that the election of Slaughter was absolutely impossible. The Chief Executive added that he would rather see a Republican elected than have Slaughter returned to Congress. He said Marshall also confers with James M. Pendergast, head of the County's "Goat" faction.



# People's Platform

## "But Let's Do Something..."

CHARLOTTE, THE NEWS: THIS concerns a large number of us, and in my opinion it should be aired publicly, and furthermore, something done about it.

About ten days ago both of the Charlotte newspapers carried an expensive (I'm sure) advertisement, paid for by the leading Charlotte stores, to the effect that they promised to adhere to the policy of price control, and to give the customer the merchandise concerned at prices within reason, etc., etc., ad infinitum.

Yesterday I visited a chain store on North Tryon with a view of getting my week-end groceries, and I noticed that the most essential groceries had advanced as much as 30 per cent.

I'd like to go on record with a certain radio commentator, and go on a buying strike. As a matter of fact you could write quite an editorial on the subject, heavens knows that you have never undertaken a project which had more support from our citizens generally than this one. The colleges and our civic leaders have joined hands in trying to meet this emergency which is far greater than many people realize. I assure you that the young people who will benefit by this program deeply appreciate the help that your organization is giving. Those of us who are most closely identified with the educational program feel deeply indebted to you for this.

ELMER H. GARINGER, ASSOCIATE SUPERINTENDENT, CHARLOTTE CITY SCHOOLS.

and Mr. Ashmore have all shown an interest and understanding in this project that means much to its success. It seems to me that we have never undertaken a project which had more support from our citizens generally than this one. The colleges and our civic leaders have joined hands in trying to meet this emergency which is far greater than many people realize. I assure you that the young people who will benefit by this program deeply appreciate the help that your organization is giving. Those of us who are most closely identified with the educational program feel deeply indebted to you for this.

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# Explanation

EDITORIAL, THE NEWS: I WOULD appreciate, and I believe others would, an editorial explaining on what grounds, if any, you form an opinion causing you to believe or entertain any hope that Great Britain will repay any loan granted them.

I kindly give complete details as to amount owed us from World War I, amount paid, balance due, when last payment was made, reason for not paying, and maybe you won't have to write pro-British editorials.

I do not find any anti-British attitude, but I do find a whole lot of pro-American pocketbook sentiment. Please make it good, as a lot of us may want to use it on our banker.

WALTER THOMPSON, (NOTE: How's this: The British have never defaulted on a loan made by the United States. Although they did not repay the "War Debt" World War I, arguing that money spent by the U. S. in the conduct of a common war was not a loan at all; the U. S. did not expect to be repaid. If Mr. Thompson is like that, he probably is broke when the fight is over, the banker may even be willing to advance a loan, particularly if he agrees to purchase only goods the banker has to sell.—Eds., THE NEWS.)

# Roosevelt Did It

EDITORIAL, THE NEWS: CAN you be that ignorant that you have to ask "Who is responsible for Bilbo?" The people of Mississippi defend him many years ago and your great and glorious friend, Roosevelt, took him to Washington and made a big show of him?

Four Jewish masters in Washington don't let you print things like that do they?

(NOTE: Okay, we withdraw.—ANDREW McGILL.—Eds., THE NEWS.)

# Drew Pearson's Merry-Go-Round • Marshall Dictated Stuart Appointment

Pendergast was hard to find, but after three days Smith finally located the associate who is being dismissed. "Why should I do anything like that?" Pendergast snorted. "Truman has done nothing for me!"

Smith received this back to the White House and a few days later replied a second letter. "Truman was the President and he probably thought Pendergast meant what was a few dollars hadn't done anything for him 'lately'." Truman then sent a note direct to Pendergast and asked him to advise whether he was for Slaughter or the President of the United States.

The note brought results. Pendergast hopped a plane and was in Washington next day. After he returned, Democratic leaders learned that the "Goat" faction of the Democratic Party would back Knox Axtell, former assistant county prosecutor for Congress.

The "Babbit" Democrats, headed by Frank Shannon, several months ago indicated they would support Jerome B. Bailey, former Congressman from the district next to Truman's. Most "Babbit" leaders, however, show too strong for labor favor backing Axtell.

Now, the Democrats in Kansas City long have been divided into two groups—the "Babbit" and the "Goat" faction.

# Reactionary Russia

THERE are many reasons why Moscow should be kept away from the intentions of a society. From the extreme of postwar divorce and the loss of the United States has sprung to the other extreme of repressive law on birth control. The technique used to stimulate a reactionary government is in some ways the methods used by Hitler and Mussolini.

When Averell Harriman returned from more than two years as Ambassador in Moscow, he reported that the Soviet government is a function where women were present. Granted the stringencies of the repressive atmosphere among the ruling clique seemed to be one of harem-like separation between men and women. Women in the Soviet Union, of course, the same work that men do, during the war they fought side by side with men, showing the same courage and resistance.

The most disturbing note in Atkinson's articles did not concern this reactionary quality. After all, we "got along" with a reactionary czarist regime and we should be able to get along with this regime. The most disturbing statement he makes is that the small group in the Politburo, the governing power in Russia today, suffers from such a complex of suspicion and paranoia that it amounts to "group paranoia."

PARANOIA SUFFERERS Hitler and the men around him suffered out of fear and suspicion from a paranoid complex which conformed to their pathology. Their pathological suspicions would never let them relax completely on a basis that total rule. If what Atkinson says of Russia is even partly true, the Russian government in a bad way, and any peace treaty would be a mere pause between wars.

Reactionary Russia, which has branched out in all sorts of experimentation—some of it silly but some of it vigorous and alive.

In literature some good writing came out of the war, on the reactionist level, such as Konstantin Simonov's "Days and Nights." But this is a long way short of the great Russian realist literature, which includes such figures as Tolstoy, Dostoevsky and Chekov.

HITLER'S TECHNIQUE It seems to me that you can apply test after test to show that the regime in Russia is in reality

# Samuel Grafton The Great Dilemma

THE real reason for the differences between the Russian and American attitudes toward German reparations is that the Russians want to get the maximum quantities of German goods, while we cannot. The Russian economy is like a sponge which soaks up unlimited imports from Germany and count them all as a part of their national income. These imports, coming into America would merely represent competition with our own manufacturers, and would be attacked for putting Americans out of work. Far from wanting reparations we do not even like to bring our surplus Army supplies home for fear they will hang heavy on our markets.

Russia, producing for consumption, not for profit, has therefore a massive advantage over us in dealing with the German economy and she is exploiting this advantage with skill. The huge Zeiss optical works at Jena, in the Russian zone, are denigrated as employing more men now than before the war, producing a surplus of optical instruments, most of which are going to Russia as reparations. But the rebirth of the German optical industry meets with disfavor in our American military circles, which are highly protected by Russia. Jena represents an expansion of industry to us, an expansion of competition with our own optical industry.

It is only on this basis that you can understand the Molotov plan for Germany. The Russian attitude seems curiously contradictory, but only so if you are not a realist. We can't use reparations, we cannot produce the goods which are easy choice is between a German producing for Russia and a German producing for America and the crazy upshot is that the British are spending \$200,000,000 to feed the British, while the Russians are certainly taking a net profit on their occupation. The British are both on to its obscure claim and it is easy to see why it cannot be resolved merely by a couple of tanks or a form of victory.

WEST IS HELPLESS The West is curiously helpless against this approach. We have several alternatives, none very good. We could destroy German industry and Germany would be a wasteland, which would mean the end of Soviet influence. We want some of Germany to remain, as a bulwark against the Russians, but we have little upon the notion of letting Germany produce and export its own goods to feed her people. But even here there are complications: a New York Times dispatch says that the British have played with the idea of letting the Germans produce their small, cheap automobiles. The British would like to port, only to realize finally that this would compete with British exports of automobiles.

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reactionary. Take the position of women, for example. Women in the Soviet Union have long been the victims of the intentions of a society. From the extreme of postwar divorce and the loss of the United States has sprung to the other extreme of repressive law on birth control. The technique used to stimulate a reactionary government is in some ways the methods used by Hitler and Mussolini.

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