

The Search For A City Manager

CHARLOTTE has had an in-and-out experience with its city management since the managerial form of government was first adopted. There have been times when the incumbent and the Mayor were on speaking terms, a situation hardly conducive to smooth operation of a multi-million dollar business. The passage of time, while proving the undoubted advantage of having a city manager at the helm, has also demonstrated that he must combine practical administrative ability with great energy and a high degree of diplomacy.

From Shocked Disbelief To Bitterness

IN an article in The New York Times Magazine called "This Is Not The American Way," For Richard Neuberger, a look at the land of the free and the home of the brave on behalf of his fellow-veterans. His report is surprisingly free of bitterness—rather it reflects a shocked sense of disbelief at the evidence of moral disintegration he sees all around him.

The rude awakening begins when the returning veteran, as out of place in callous post-war America as a Man from Mars, undertakes his search for a place to live. His discharge button, instead of serving as a badge of honor, simply marks him as a nuisance. Rental agents calmly ask him for bribes, in cash kick-backs or through the purchase of worthless furniture. Builders tell him he can't expect to put up a house at a price he can afford for at least a year. The market for his car is a rattrack nears completion and all along the streets he can see workmen busy putting the finishing touches on movie theatres, saloons, automobile showrooms, and factories. So he huddles in a furnished

The UAW Calls A Conference

THE United Automobile Workers, the world's largest labor union and certainly one of the most successful in accomplishing its announced aims, has invited leaders of the automobile industry to a conference in Detroit to discuss ways and means of increasing production. Three of the Independents—Kaiser-Frazer, Studebaker and Willys—have accepted with pleasure, but Ford has rejected the invitation and Chrysler has followed suit.

Interest in increasing production is a new departure for labor unions, and an encouraging one. The ultimate economic effect of the trend toward shorter hours and higher pay, no matter how small, it may be socially, is to reduce production and increase per unit costs unless it is accompanied by increases in productive efficiency. So far labor unions, literally battling for their lives, have shown little concern for this aspect of the organizing effort. They have had it forcibly brought to their attention during this period of inflation, for they have found higher wages more than wiped out by the higher prices, based on scarcity, that quickly follow each pay raise.

Major General Frink, a retired Army Engineer, is now being prominently mentioned as a possible city manager.

It seems to us he is lacking on the score of youth and experience. A career in the regular Army rarely fits a man to deal with politicians and the general public. A major portion of the city manager's duties. Moreover, we doubt the propriety of placing in so taxing a job a man who is retiring at the end of a long and busy life.

Charlotte has paid her city manager upwards of \$12,500 a year, and will, we suppose, continue to do so. That is an impressive salary even in these inflated times, and it should command the services of an expert in city administration. Council is obligated, we think, to shop around until it has exhausted all possibilities, here and there. It is infinitely better to let the City struggle along without a manager for a while, as it has in the past, than to saddle the administration with a mediocre executive brought in, in a burst of ill-considered enthusiasm, under a long-term contract.

But it is not so much America's sins of omission and commission that bother the returning veteran. Rather it is the calm acceptance of graft, corruption, double-dealing, and petty selfishness by the public at large. The veteran, outraged at the unjust treatment he is receiving, then finds that literally nobody cares. His Government rewards his service with sentimental words and cash gifts that destroy his pride and are irrelevant to his problem: a \$20-a-week dole for which he cannot live, a cash loan for purchase of a house (at inflated prices he cannot afford), money for a college education (at an overcrowded university that cannot accept his application), and finally a cash bonus in the form of terminal leave pay (with which he can buy none of the things he needs and wants).

Mr. Neuberger ends his story here, but it isn't all of it. Shocked incredulity soon turns to bitterness. America's complete failure to provide the returning veteran with an opportunity to resume the life the war interrupted is being written off by those who stayed at home as a natural part of the American way of life. He is contemptuously by well-sheltered, well-fed non-veterans that his homelessness and poverty are part of the American way of rewarding heroes. It will be remarkable indeed if the veteran, destined to become a major political force in the next few years, continues to regard as sacred and inviolate the system of free enterprise that made paupers of those who fought for their country, and allowed those who didn't to prosper.

People's Platform

FOR the past few weeks I have been reading, with considerable interest, letters concerning the so-called "Rocking Chair" money being paid unemployed veterans of World War I. Practically the same arguments, pro and con, have appeared in Southwestern papers, with the veteran the target in most cases. However, it seems that most of the arguments against the veterans have been advanced by those non-veterans who are jealous of the vets and would like to see them deprived of certain rights they have won by having served their country in time of need.

Being a veteran who saw combat service in World War I, and also a native of the State of North Carolina, who for reasons of health moved to Arizona shortly after the end of World War I, and who has two sons who served in combat in World War II, one of them still in service, and being identified with an active veterans organization, I feel that I am qualified to say something about this subject.



Veterans In The Saddle

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Being a veteran who saw combat service in World War I, and also a native of the State of North Carolina, who for reasons of health moved to Arizona shortly after the end of World War I, and who has two sons who served in combat in World War II, one of them still in service, and being identified with an active veterans organization, I feel that I am qualified to say something about this subject.

Congress granted this \$20 per week unemployment compensation to veterans of World War II, along with many other benefits, to enable them to get back on their feet, or in other words to readjust themselves during the postwar period. Remember, most of the veterans of World War I were very young, some of them not yet out of high school and many of them had never held any kind of a regular job. Coming back home and finding prices on necessities of life sky-high and everybody bent on making money it was a real rough time. In many ways, were it not for this \$20 per week, the veterans would not be able to even eat and sleep. Still, his civilian brother, who remained at home, slept in a comfortable bed, had a car and made lots of money, who is sitting pretty in some business or on some job, does not see eye to eye with the vet and his problems. He feels that the vet should shed his uniform today and take the first job offered him tomorrow, regardless of whether it is a job that will enable him to get on his feet, or not. Well, just how can you do that?

All around him the vet sees others making big profits in business, driving fine cars, living in fine homes and enjoying the many luxuries. The vet has been denied all these things—and the vet realizes that were it not for the sacrifices he has made on the battlefields, that there would not be any of these luxuries here at home for anyone to enjoy, and when you have only a \$27 per week left to live on, and if there were only a \$27 per week left to live on, and if a man has a wife and children, he is only prolonging the agony, and he cannot blame him for craving the \$20 per week for a whole year, if he so elects.

If the country that he fought to preserve has no more to offer him when he comes back from war, then the country that he saved, is not worth saving—to this the vets of World War I are agreed. On all the draft-shirkers, big and little business men, were waving flags and acclaiming our heroes. They were proud of them. They had a right to be, and through the great sacrifices our boys made, the war ended years sooner than it would otherwise, and surely this entitles the vets to some consideration.



Samuel Grafton

(This is the final column by Samuel Grafton before he signs a month's vacation. During his absence the column by Peter Edson, NEA Washington correspondent, will appear in this space.—Eds. The News.)

It would perhaps be well not to expect too much from the Paris peace conference. The sweet phrase "peace conference" has a connotation of a rather limited conference, it is concerned with the fates of five small countries, namely—Italy, Rumania, Hungary, Bulgaria and Finland, and the subject to be further by other attending nations are deemed to review by the Big Four.

Related Items

ARE these news items related? 1. The news item that 2478 arrests for drunken driving in North Carolina so far this year. 2. Legal liquor sales in North Carolina in June total \$2,330,000, an increase of \$70,000,000 over June of last year. 3. The Governor of North Carolina called a Safety Conference to discuss the increasing number of accidents on the State highways, claiming an average of 100 deaths per month. (NOTE: Obviously no prohibition, since the drunken driving arrests were distributed about equally, in the wet among wet and dry counties.—Eds. The News.)

Foul Atmosphere

I GAIN I refer to what I read in our papers, and the one that "A Maritime Crisis is Looming" and further I read the report of the faulty shells as produced by the profit grasping murderers of our boys. She seems to have many answers for just such problems. It must be that their political atmosphere is kept greasy for proper vision that is ours with its clouds of political fog. How long will we be able to breath in such atmosphere? —J. F. MAQUIRE.

The Soldier's View

INDIGNATION over the Garson-May munitions business bill is being let out of a blistering pent-up vent. It is an easy Summer-time emotion, calculated to take the mind off our real troubles.

But it's important, it seems to me, to consider a point of view that has been given little or no expression since the start of the weird pagant of greed put on before the War Committee. It is the point of view of the professional soldier—namely the Pentagon colonels but the men who respect the fighting and the mud and muck of actual combat.

These are the men who will have to fight the next war which some people in this country seem so anxious to promote—including some of those who are exploiting the profits of the munitions business. Here, in brief, is what these professional soldiers have to say.

DEFECTS INEVITABLE The professional soldier, who used the mortar shell, is deeply disturbed by the gross put on before the Garson committee. He knows that the whole war is a certain percentage of defects turn up in the course of the fighting.

GENERAL TREATED GENTLY Little has been said before the War Committee about the true cost of the war. The cost of the 1872 law on contract renegotiation revealed. It came, I am convinced from the testimony of the late William N. Porter, who retired as head of the Chemical Warfare Service to take over the contract. The big firms had been dealing with it was treated very gently by the committee.

No Peace Conference

range the Balkans so as to please both Russia and the West; but the West is not working for peace, not for the West used to mean, anyhow. It was a great deal to create a balance between the huge countries. It was a great deal to create an equilibrium among the unequal nations in this way, as it must, the conference is not likely to end in any other than a stalemate.

U. S. Has Lost World Leadership HOWEVER, the unfortunate but inescapable fact is that the world's leadership has been lost to the United States. Our diplomats have been through the usual labyrinth and up so many Ties blind allies with Slav devices. They are weary and confused. The U. S. has lost its leadership. The name "peace conference" had perhaps best be reserved. We cannot have the substance of peace, let us at least keep the meaning of the word.

Dr. W. Pearson's Paris Meet May Well End Without Treaty Merry-Go-Round PARIS would do more to stabilize world peace than all the other treaties imaginable. It is quite true, of course, that Byrnes would not get a "free conference" in the Moscow radio broadcast, but his claim this was not on the agenda. He would even accuse Byrnes of sabotaging the peace.