

Good News From The Indices

There has never been any real division of opinion over the proposition that the only final cure for inflation is full industrial production. Now that we have more or less given up the effort to treat the painful symptoms of the disease, the various indices of production take on new importance as a test report on the race to see whether natural forces will be able to cure this country of inflation without weakening it so that it will relapse into deflation.

It is good to note, therefore, that there is an excellent chance that industrial production in July may have equaled all previous peacetime records. This represents real progress, for there was a steady decline in the Federal Reserve Board index during the winter months due to strikes, the termination of war contracts, and retooling. In February the index was 18.3 per cent below that for August 1945. Last month of war production, but by June it had climbed back to within 8.6 per cent of the August level. The odds are good, according to Civilian Production Administrator John D. Small, that July's record may equal August's, which will mean that we have begun to produce to meet the needs of peace at the rate established under the pressure of war.

Fortune Discovers A Warm Heart

WILMO ROOPER, who rings doorbells for Fortune, has been around asking a question which has become a cliché: "What should be based on efficiency or need. This is his hypothetical question: If you had to make a choice between laying off an extremely efficient worker who could be supported by relatives, and a much less efficient married man with a family and no other means of support, which would you keep? It is not surprising that the general public voted in favor of keeping the inefficient family head, but the same trend showed among employers, both large and small.

What this proves, of course, is that the businessman has a big heart, which is certainly a fine thing. But Fortune finds the report quite disturbing. "Translated into national policy, (1) would mean a sharp restriction on two kinds of competition that have always been part of this country's economic system. One is the competition between individuals to better their position. The other is the competition between business firms, which in seeking to increase profits by lowering costs have again and again broadened the margins of the society's need to solve the problem of family welfare in those cases where the head of the family is a poor provider. But to do so by disregarding efficient workmanship, raising labor costs, and of necessity raising consumer prices would seem to be the most expensive form of charity."

The Veterans Tackle the Housing Problem

CONVERSATION. It has been pointed out, never got any veteran in out of the rain. Nevertheless, a good deal of it is necessary as a preliminary to any really large-scale building effort in Charlotte. The Veterans are taking the housing problem themselves organizing a committee to tackle the problem.

Now that the Congress has adjourned without taking action to relieve the housing shortage, the burden falls exclusively upon the individual communities. Chairman Nixon and his colleagues on the Veterans Committee are taking up a share of that burden, and they are entitled to the wholehearted co-operation of all concerned.



People's Platform A Great Disservice?

CHARLOTTE Without in any way condoning the brutal murders of four Negroes in Georgia or approving the tactics and policies of the Citizens' Council, I might state that the People's Platform is a great disservice in following the hysterical hue and cry set up by the Northern press. It is my opinion that such publicity inflames and aggravates the situation rather than helps.

There is a well-known fact that the Communist Party and the fellow-travelers are eagerly bidding for the favor of minority groups in America. They are very happy to pounce upon such a "cause celebre" such as the Monroe incident in order to stir up discontent among Negroes with the aim of using their support in ultimately overthrowing our present form of government. The pity of it all is that responsible persons and newspapers are glibly and carelessly acting as effective propaganda agents in their behalf. And those who view such incidents in their proper perspective are labeled as "fascists," "Claghams," "anti-Semites," etc.

Quote, Unquote

THE assumption of unanimous agreement by the Big Five on which the United Nations Charter was built, now seems impossible of achievement. The world needs a new pattern—Dr. Herbert Ruidt, University of New Hampshire philosophy professor.

There are at least two major secret weapons in existence which scientists believe are potentially as dangerous to mankind as the (atom) bomb itself—W. A. Hignbotham, chairman Federation of Atomic Scientists.

Marquis Childs Search For A Man

WASHINGTON Once again President Truman is having trouble finding the right man for the job. The jobs are super-super and the men named must be of the highest caliber. It is unfortunate because the President will control the greatest force in the world.

Originally, the President had hoped to name the five members of the newly created Atomic Energy Commission before Congress adjourns. He has now had to have them confirmed before the Senate departed for the long recess.

Peter Edson

WASHINGTON CONGRESSMEN running for reelection this year are afraid of what New York Senator James M. Mead's committee expose of the Engineers Group as a strange force to do them now and in November.

Aftermath Of Expose

WASHINGTON son expose such political dynamite would be a disaster to any man. In and out of the witness chair moves a parade of characters right out of something by Ring Lardner.

Bolsheviks And Divorce Mills

What The Charlotte News reports is accurate, and we wouldn't care to believe newspaper of printing the un-American Activities (formerly known as the Dies Committee) evidently has its wires crossed up across the Blanton "divorce mill" case in Mecklenburg County.

It is this true, the divorce business is largely an American institution. Just where the number of divorces in proportion to marriages.

Drew Pearson's Peace Weapons Lag Behind Arms Of War

PARIS It's hot in the galleries of the Palace of Luxembourg—the top gallery sits hundreds of newsmen—Gibson, Slansky, Greek, Indian, New Zealanders, watching a man speak far from the last war is here again—even some of its' their peace. What's done here will affect their countries from Baluchistan to Iceland, from Saskatchewan to Samoa, and everywhere in between.

occupied faces, bored with the endless translations. Bored with the endless boredom of diplomacy. Bored with the men who lost an arm or a leg, who knows what it is to suffer on the battlefield. These are the men who are

One Man Who Hears

ONE man does hear. He sits opposite Jimmie Byrnes... He is the only man who hears anything beyond the noise of the big brass bands and the shouting of the big brass bands.

Byrnes Not Bored

JIMMIE BYRNES is not bored. Politely, patiently, prole Jimmie Byrnes sits on the front row—perhaps he is too polite to patient... You feel like shouting down at Jimmie Byrnes, but you don't. You just sit there, way down below.