

New Support For The Zoning Plan

PROPERTY owners have most to lose in the short-haul, and most to gain over the years under the zoning ordinance now before City Council.

It is true that the Board made an important reservation, but it is certainly a reasonable one. The realtors oppose enactment of a set-back law covering the entire business district on the ground that it would be too expensive to remove existing structures along the present narrow streets.

This seems to us a logical compromise, and a workable one. The desirability of opening up as many downtown streets as

possible is obvious, but no more obvious than the physical limitations imposed by lack of planning in the past.

It seems to us there is enough competent evidence as to the extent and nature of the traffic problem now at hand to enable the Planning Board, and Council, to settle on a pattern of cross-town boulevards that will serve the city in the foreseeable future.

We're delighted to see the Real Estate Board which speaks on behalf of the town's property-owners, lending its considerable support to the zoning plan. This, we would say, pretty well takes care of any real opposition to the project, and should remove any reluctance Council may have felt toward prompt passage of the necessary ordinance.

What Makes a Red A Red?

L'AFFAIRE WALLACE as all well-read editors have come to refer to it, has given new emphasis to the curious manner in which hysteria fear of a vast and complex Communist conspiracy within our own country has spread far beyond the bounds of the has-ridden Hearst press.

There is a growing belief that the only way of saving the country from the Red peril is to present a united front to the Red enemies within and without the gates, and to those who accept this thesis any man who questions the wisdom of our current Russian policy is at best a misguided fellow-traveler and at worst a traitor.

Some of the most respectable journals now appear to be reprinting portions of Elizabeth Dilling's 'The Red Network' in lieu of editorials. The hysteria has affected such normally responsible newspapers as The Washington Post. Examining the new work, As He Saw It by Elliot Roosevelt, in an editorial entitled 'Inside Elliot', the editor has written: 'We suppose any similarity between the memoirs of Mr. Elliot Roosevelt and the current Communist Party line is (as the book publishers say) wholly coincidental. Nevertheless, there is a very remarkable coincidence.'

Based on what we have said of Mr. Roosevelt's book, it has appeared piecemeal in Look, our judgment is that it deserves hearty commendation on the grounds of perillity and consummate bad taste. But The Post implies that Moscow, working through the American Communist Party, put Elliot up to writing it in order to discredit Winston Churchill, with no visible support for that implication except the fact that Winston Churchill now serves as the Communist's favorite whipping boy. This sort of thinking seems to us not

only foolish but dangerous. First of all it attaches undue importance to the American Communist Party; fear involves some degree of respect and our native Communists deserve nothing more nourishing than contempt. There are, according to the claims of Party Boss William Z. Foster, only 70,000 card-holding Communists in the United States. Because they are concentrated in New York they have attained a local influence out of proportion to their numbers, and also they have attained real power in a handful of the smaller labor unions. This may be disturbing, but it hardly justifies manning the barricades.

Nor does it justify the assumption that a local American, dedicated to the preservation of the capitalist system, cannot arrive independently at an opinion that happens to be included in the current Communist line. Technically, we suppose, any area of agreement with Foster and Company would be a most follow-traveler, and it is well to remember that 95 per cent of the American people were fellow-travelers in the period when American Communist policy called for all-out support of the war against Germany. No man deserves the Red label unless he accepts and follows the line of the Communist Party to its entirety. To underestimate the use of that horrendous label serves only to keep down dissenting opinions, to force minorities, in the name of unity against a common enemy, to the uncritical acceptance of whatever policy the majority may have evolved.

This is a remarkably poor time for a nation built upon dissenting opinions to rule out any idea simply because 70,000 crackpots in New York have been instructed to incorporate it in their Party line. In some cases are treated, as The High Point Enterprise notes, as though they were wards of the campus bootlegger. The reason, we suspect, is that we have a sort of hold-over in the prevailing Conference rules which, even though they are fundamentally violated, lend a certain air of legitimacy to the process of reimbursing a halfback for his creek's work. Hereabouts, the colleges are caught between the ill-whyth amateurism proposed by the late Graham Plan, and the more open commercialism prevailing to the north and south. A return to the sort of game once favored by Frank Graham seems to be out of the question, unless all Old Gads some how be eradicated, and it seems to us we should, in justice to the men who play the game, move forward to the more wholesome atmosphere of open professionalism. After all, the more the better, and a young man shouldn't earn his way through school playing football and the present hypocritical standards serve no purpose except to make him ashamed of what should be an honorable calling.

The Pros And The College Boys

LINE COACH JOE BACH, commenting on the unpleasantness of playing back in North Davinville, said the practice game here with the Clippers, said: 'It's tougher to drop a man in the pros than in college football. On a college squad you are depriving a man of an education, but here you're depriving him of his livelihood.' This remark, while duly quoted in the press, has aroused no comment.

Time was when such a blunt comparison of 'collegiate' and 'professional' commercial game would have been a sensation. That was in the days when colleges liked to pretend that the young men who got out to do and die of a Saturday afternoon were motivated only by a pure and uplifting competitive spirit. Nowadays, however, not even the most devoted 'collegiatas' has any doubt but that the boys on the team are being paid for their work.

We have progressed past the clock-winding stage in paying off college athletes, but they are still considered a cut below their classmates in the social scale, and

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Just suppose that Russia had really joined up with the Nazis and that the German come of us all? German chains is what. Let us thank the Russians for saving us from those dark



People's Platform

Wrecked With Cramps

Editors: The News: 'ARE we as a nation being united to Russia?' Mrs. Hendricks raises that question in the opening sentence of her letter of Sept. 11, 1946. She is entitled to a courteous and intelligent answer.

She attempts to answer that question in the affirmative, and admits that she gets her information daily via radio and press. That source of information is as unharmonious as the tides that sweep the Bay of Fundy. However, she quotes no certain press or no particular radio announcer or commentator. She says further that instead of us trying to force democracy on Russia, Russia is trying to force or impose communism on her neighbors whether they like it or not. In that assertion, she is magnanimous enough not to include the United States as she sees the prospect of the Red peril.

Yes, Germany went democratic just after World War I, and allowed her war lords to invade us into the United States. It was the fault of the Germans that they finance another war instead of paying her debt. They will do it again and rack us with old cramps.

Mrs. Hendricks says further that no Russians started to die in 1919-20 except those who were marked for starvation by the Russian Government. I recall not having heard with her on that question as I was only quoting H. G. Wells, the greatest historian of modern times. She admits, however, that she read her side of the question only recently and gave me the name of her informer. That you see, puts me to a disadvantage. But listen to her summation: 'Finally, so the story ran, she opened her letter with the assertion that she was stating facts, and then allowed her letter to degenerate into a fury. She should have opened her letter with, 'Once upon a time.'

She speaks so beautifully of the great assistance that the Russians in the past, all of which was due to our great advantage, the Lend-Lease act was not passed until March 1941, and the time of its passage had not been in the White House, he would have been back at the time of Pearl Harbor. That was the only thing that braced and strengthened our shaking knees.

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WASHINGTON 'STORM OVER HENRY' is a strange phenomenon. It is a repeat performance he is in the capital, and invariably it packs the city with a kind of show-down talk that might have been Hannegan over.

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Another Voice

Oh, It's A Mighty Rough Road . . .

THE State Conservation Commission appears to be giving favorable consideration to a proposal for an official marker in North Davinville, back in 1903, Southern Railway Train No. 97 plunged from a trestle, killing the engineer and eight others, and inspiring the ballad 'The Wreck of the Old 97'. Only three years before, 'Casey' Jones had gone to his death in a crash at Vaughn, Miss., and a short time thereafter small boys from the Gulf to the Canada line were whistling the strumming Casey Jones.

Either of these railroad wrecks might well be commemorated by an official marker. There is much more popular interest here in the wreck of the old 97 than in the wreck of the Casey Jones. The wreck of the old 97 is more familiar to the average American than the Battle of Bunker Hill or the Siege of Petersburg.

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