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240%

With No Law Against It, the State Licenses Loan Sharks

It was on July 1, 1937, the plaintiff testified, that he borrowed \$35. For 30 months he paid the loan company \$7.50 a month, making a total of \$210. Then he was told that he still owed the \$35. He stopped paying altogether and finally decided to bring suit against the loan company for double the amount he had paid less the amount he had borrowed originally.

Seven dollars a month on \$35 is at the interest rate of 20 per cent monthly, 240 per cent annually. If you wanted the use of \$100 for a year, the interest charge would be \$240. Why?

But the loan sharks' clients are seldom the kind of people who know their rights or want to get mixed up with lawyers and go to court.

Procrastination

What Politics Did to Welfare "Merit Exam"

For an intimate glimpse at close-to-home bureaucratic bungling, consider with us the details of the long and tortuous examination for North Carolina welfare department workers.

Mecklenburgers know their Welfare Department as the place where some six or eight kinds of relief is ladled out. It's where folks go to get on the WPA, or to get Old Age Assistance, or to get a loan, or to get help in getting a job, or to get just plain relief.

Way back in August, 1939, Congress passed a law extending the merit system by the Federal Government.

During all this time, the unfortunate welfare workers had been receiving reassurance of material urging them to prepare for an imminent examination.

Finally it was announced last August that on the 31st day of that month the exam definitely would take place.

All along there was political firing and backbiting. It became apparent that any examination of sufficient severity to threaten any great number of welfare department workers would alienate them from the Government.

most powerful portions of his patronage-dependent machine. Informed State Welfare Department employees have long since ceased worrying about the merit examination. If it comes tomorrow, they say, let it come.

Scarcie Tickets

Average Highway Patrolman Makes Ten Fee Arrests

What the average North Carolina Highway Patrolman does with his leisure is his business. What he does while on duty is everybody's business—and it would appear that he is remarkably inactive during the latter hours.

Only two explanations for this strange record come to mind. The figures don't include cases in which offending drivers were let off with only a warning. Perhaps the patrol doing more warning than arresting. The bloody toll of traffic deaths is the worst month in the state's history—hint that few more arrests would have been in order.

Price Of Folly

Roosevelt Labor Policy Creates an Emergency

Senator Pepper summed it up nicely when he said of the so-called "hard-boiled" strike bill passed by the House Wednesday:

"It demonstrated the conviction of the House in passing this bill that it is dealing with domestic obstructions to our foreign policy."

It was, we believe, just that. Labor troubles have a long history of blocking the Neutrality Act repeatedly—not because Congress had cooled toward the Roosevelt foreign policy, but because Senators and Representatives thought it unwise to get any further into war until the defense strike menace had been abated.

Such a bill the House has now sent to the Senate. It is, besides by any far beyond what the President was willing to recommend, and will probably be modified considerably. Mr. Roosevelt is reported to be distinctly cool toward the secret strike-bait provision, the freezing order and closed shop agreements and several others.

What he does not seem to realize is that the Smith Bill passed the House as an emergency measure. Perhaps it is a good idea to let it pass as a bill, but the President has only himself and his fiscal Department of Labor to blame.

This is one time the President cannot have his cake and eat it, and it would be a pity if he tried.

Denial is the face of a man who is in a tight spot. He is denying a fact that the facts of life can be seen in the mirror.

Quitting A Cause

By Hugh S. Johnson

SOME time ago, news reports revealed the effect of the America First Committee intended to start a new political party.

TREND TURNS TOWARD POLITICAL MOVEMENT

From these ideas, standards and spirit fell a duty to warn that, if any political party is to be given to this movement, he would find himself bound to split blankets with the rest of the world.

When the news reporter referred to above was published, this column felt it a duty to warn that, if any political party is to be given to this movement, he would find himself bound to split blankets with the rest of the world.

There was a third card. This division of America from China is now clear that Kuriusu was sent to Washington with a task—to get the troops from the ABC powers and to threaten China and Szechuan.

WAR ON RUSSIA WAS ONLY POSTPONED Now that didn't mean he had abandoned the war on Russia. It just meant he had postponed it.

THE OILS ARE Coming, Hurrah! Business Week California farmers, facing field labor shortages, rejoiced this week over news that the Oils are coming.

Senator Soaper Says: There is something palpably phony about the Rumanian flag that is flying over the port of Antonescu.

Manitowish is safe in the country, a magazine columnist writes. But the danger of a coup is on the wrapper of the 3-cent candy bar appears to include even this.

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That Dry Drugery At The Desk's Dead Wood

Japan's Ace In The Hole

By Dorothy Thompson

THE poker game between the United States and Japan is stud with most of the cards on the table and without one being in anybody's hand it is pretty clear how things are going.

NAZI PINNERS ARE PUNCHED We don't know whether Hitler intended to make this a frontal attack on Britain or more on the Middle East. He promised the first and prepared for the second.

Perhaps that same tactic—dividing China from her Pacific allies—was Japan's only hope of making war now. We don't know—but there has been another Munich in Washington.

The Axis politicians wanted a fourth card, and a fourth hope, and a fourth political strategy. They hoped, repeating again the French experience, that they would get a labor defeat by repressive legislation.

Letters To The Editors: Who Sold Rotten Eggs? Increase was accepted—by the Brotherhoods. We don't think the increase in pay will be living to take care of the cost of living during the national emergency.

Editorial: Is Approved Your editorial in the Charlotte News yesterday was appreciated by the Brotherhood of Railroad Trainmen and all its members in this state, and in all the United States, Canada and Newfoundland.

Today's Bible Thought: If the shoe fits you put it on: Be ye doers of the word and not hearers only, lest ye deceive your own selves.—James 1:22.

"Thumbs Up" Along the Defense Highway By Herblock

EXPLOSION CARELESS TREATMENT OF PRIORITIES Secretary regarding our defense program has in some respects worked to his own injury.

Visitin' Around: When? (Bailey Camp Topic, Lenox News-Topic) Mr. and Mrs. Carroll Harmon—may be congratulated on the birth of a first baby.

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Take Off The Wraps

By Raymond Capper

WE may have heard on the radio a few months ago that the "wraps" were to be taken off the defense program.

BLACKMAILING OF CONGRESS HAS ALREADY BEGUN I am not happy to say this because I still want a complete peace inside America, between all honest Americans. But what has the America First Committee done—and done right at this moment, the most crucial moment in the chronologically important negotiations with Japan?

SECRET DISCUSSION STRATEGY PASTOR To protect the Japanese we have professed almost the ultimate in secret diplomacy. Peace discussions went on secretly for months, and those few who knew about them were pledged to secrecy.

But this strategy did not work. Japan look advantage of it. We could not have made less of an impression than we did, for as President Roosevelt now acknowledges, in the middle of the talks Japan had the squares put on Vichy, and French Indo-China was formed to assist Japanese troops.

It would not hurt anybody and it might improve some foreign capitalists' views on the future of our effective work that is being done by the economic defense board. This has been played down as largely an attempt to obtain raw materials needed for our own defense program.

PUBLICITY ON ECONOMIC DEFENSE MIGHT HELP It wouldn't hurt anybody and it might improve some foreign capitalists' views on the future of our effective work that is being done by the economic defense board.

Winter Dirge: Wall Street Journal: Oil and news. This line wins out: "My dear, the furnace must be out!"

Today's Bible Thought: If the shoe fits you put it on: Be ye doers of the word and not hearers only, lest ye deceive your own selves.—James 1:22.

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