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The American Farmer Is Not Guilty

Who is to blame for skyrocketing food prices?

The consumer is told that "the greedy farmer" is responsible for the high cost of living.

But the statistics give another verson.

Senator Burnet Maybank of South Carolina recently noted that wheat was selling at $2.81 a bushel in June, 1948, when a pound of loaf of bread was priced at 13.8 cents. Wheat then started tumbling and in October, 1950, several months after the Korean War began, the farmer received only $1.91 a bushel. But during the period of wheat's decline, a pound loaf of bread went up to 14.7 cents. Senator Maybank's figures show clearly that the processors, not the farmers, got the benefits of the price boost.

Let's look at some other statistics.

In a recent article, A. G. Mezerik, industrial consultant and magazine writer, noted that the net income realized by all farm operators dropped from a peak of almost $18 billion in 1947 to $16.5 billion in 1948 and declined again to 15 billion in 1949 and down to a postwar low of $13 billion in 1950. In three years, the net income of farm operators dropped 27 per cent.

Contrast these figures with the recent report released by the National City Bank of New York on net income of leading corporations in 1950. The profits of meat packers rose 63 per cent from 1949 to 1950. Sugar processors enjoyed a 35 per cent increase and the corporations which process other food products increased their profits by an average of 14 per cent.

These profit increases, let us not forget, occurred during a period of dwindling farm income.

The farming people of America, comprising 18 per cent of our total population, divided 10 per cent of the national income last year.

In 1950 the people who live on farms averaged a net income equal to about half that of the people living in urban areas.

All these statistics seem to acquit the farmer of the charge of greed.

And they seem to make clear the need for control of corporate profits if the rising cost of living is to be checked.

(Smithfield Herald)

"There Must Be A Man"

Under the above newspaper heading, Frank P. Kent writes of the state of the nation. He lists conditions which offer argument to suport his position that the country needs a man—a leader. Our quotation from Kent's article is long, but we know of no better way to present his views:

It has become somewhat trite to assert that what we need in this national emergency is "leadership". That has been said hundreds of times—sometimes by partisans whose aim is to achieve political advantage; sometimes by nonpartisans who are confused by the situation but have no political axes to grind; sometimes by critics who have nothing to offer but criticism.

With the nation launched on a gigantic defense program; with billions pouring out to prepare us against a threatened third world war; with debt, deficits and taxes mounting to new records—with all this and more, still, the American people are neither unified nor alert. And that, of course, adds vastly to their danger.

There is no way to dispute these facts. They—the people—have been warned, exhorted, editorialized at, preached at and appealed to. But they have not yet been deeply stirred to the point where they are ready to thrust aside unimportant things and concentrate on the important ones. And this is not surprising when we know their elected leaders and representatives in Washington remain as political and partisan as though there were no crisis and the future was fair and serene.

In addition to this, the leaders of the so-called "pressure groups" so far from being willing to make required sacrifices in the national interests, are clearly out to hold on to every special advantage they have, determined to get more if they can.

To this end, the labor bosses are still hostile and uncooperative with mobilization plans—unless they can mold them along their own manpower lines. And strikes here and there are impeding the defense effort. Also the farm leaders are actively resisting any attempt to control food prices by lowering their govermental subsidies and altering the parity formula under which they have become a particularly "favored class."

Moreover, the administration's Office of Price Stabilization, under Mr. DiSalle, is not functioning in a way to inspire either hope or faith. In utter disregard of the lessons of World Wars I and II an unrestrained and costly inflation has increased to a damaging and dangerous degree.

But after the heat thus engendered in diminished the deplorable fact remains that, in a crisis greater than we have had before, the American people are in a spiritless and listless state.

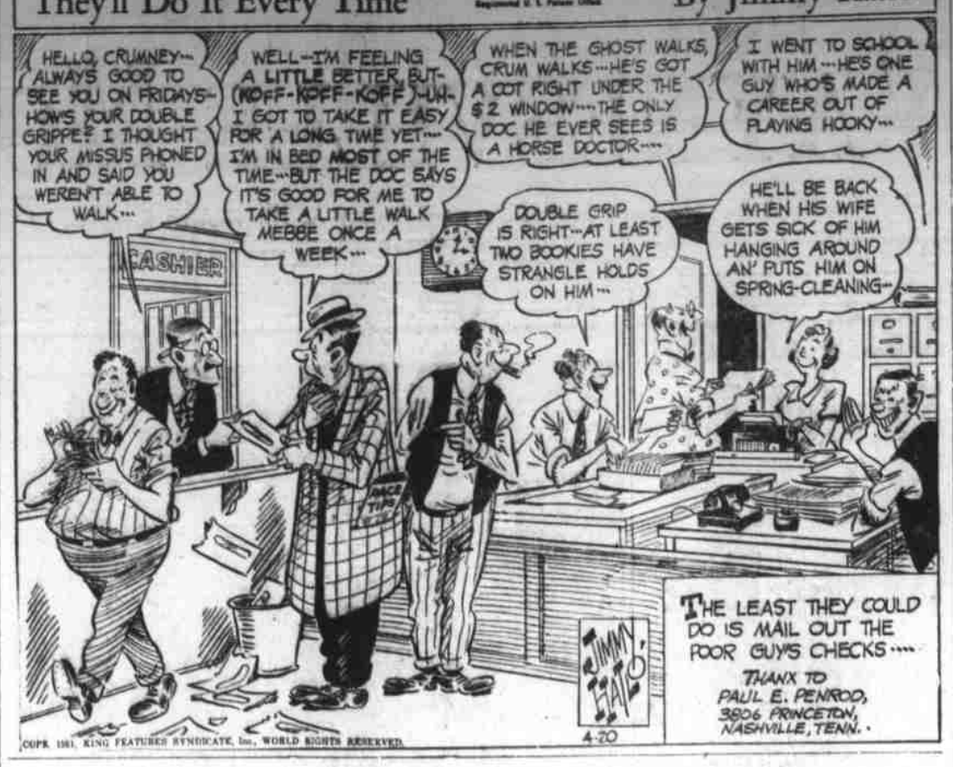
Their government is not functioning effectively and they are not engendering the steam essential to make it effective.. Its polices are neither clear nor stable. Bitterness and bad feeling widely exist. Inadequacy on high administration levels is distressingly manifest.

Somehow the leadership the country so acutely needs must be found. It does not appear to exist among our public officials. There is no one in the administration or in congress capable of galvanizing the nation into that vibrant unity before which politicians in both parties quail and which the "pressure group" leaders could not defy.

The great hope is that somewhere in private life there may arise a man with no personal interest to promote and no political or special purpose to serve—and yet able to make the American people listen closely and clearly understand. That is what they need—and all they need. There must be more than one such man among our 160,000,000.

They'll Do It Every Time

By Jimmy Hatlo



Looking Back Over The Years

15 YEARS AGO

Canton wins top honors in the elementary field meet held at Bethel.

The senior class of Waynesville High School holds banquet in Welch Memorial building of the Baptist Church. Miss Evelyn Underwood receives the guests and Douglas Moore is toastmaster.

D.A.R. unveils marker to the memory of Capt. John Henry, at his grave on upper Jonathan Creek.

10 YEARS AGO

Eighty-two seniors of Waynesville High School receive diplomas. D. Hiden Ramsey of Asheville makes commencement address.

J. D. Pless of the Bethel 4-H Club is winner of the calf-gain contest.

Miss Betty Blaylock gives informal dance at the Park Grill.

Francis Boyd wins FFA Publication project contest.

Miss Sarah Louise Leatherwood is elected president of the Athletic Association at Peace Junior College.

5 YEARS AGO

R. L. Lee builds new stone office building for his coal business.

Mrs. Barefoot and Dr. Keenum buy McKay's Pharmacy at Hazelwood.

Betty Tuttles is president of the sub-district of the Methodist Youth Fellowship.

J. Harden Howell, Jr., is taking the refresher courses given each week end at the University of North Carolina.

RALEIGH Round-up

by JAMES H. ROU BAILEY

NOTHING YET—Rumor around Raleigh a month ago was that Mrs. Ethel Perkins, executive secretary of the N. C. Education Association, was on the way out. There was some talk that Kidd Brewer, former Duke football great and one-time coach at Appalachian, would be the new secretary.

The ouster rumor was denied at the time by officials of the organization. Teachers for some reason are not pleased with the treatment they received at the hands of the recent Legislature. That is one reason why the finger is still pointing in the direction of Mrs. Perkins.

However, the education people are not quick to change leaders. They realize great progress has been made in teacher pay and that N. C. now ranks at the top in educational remuneration in the Southeast. In 1933, a beginning teacher received $70 a month for eight months. This year the beginner will get $244 per month for nine.

The educators met in Asheville, but no change in leadership was made there. None should have been contemplated, for the term of office of the secretary runs until September, if memory serves correctly. Change in the committee was effective at Asheville. As to whether the committee as it is now composed will replace Mrs. Perkins this fall is another matter for conjecture.

Jule B. Warren, who is now with the N. C. Citizens Assoc., is the man who built the N. C. Education Association. After serving 20 years, he was moved out in 1941, being replaced by Fred Greene, who later resigned to go with the N. C. Bankers Assoc. Greene is now a Charlotte banker. Mrs. Perkins has been secretary for a little over five years.

Warren, when he was secretary, engineered the purchase of Raleigh property which is now said to be worth in the neighborhood of $125,000. Financially and numerically the N. C. Education Association is strong. It sometimes gets a little wild-eyed, but this can happen to any organization, be it teachers, manufacturers, or longshoremen.

SPEAKER—Lack of space last week prevented our delving into potential candidates developed by the 1951 Legislaturt.

Gene Bost of Concord, chairman of the Finance Committee in the House and a man who tilts his cigarette holder in the Rooseveltian manner when his mild, debonair demeanor is upset by the opposition, is regarded as a sure bet for Speaker of the House in 1953. If Roy Taylor of Black Mountain doesn't run for Congress, this Buncombe liberal might oppose Bost as Fred Royster of Henderson opposed Frank Taylor. That is, Roy Taylor would have the group which regard themselves as liberals backing him.

If Bost should decide for some reason not to be a candidate, then Robert Lassiter of Charlotte will be the conservatives' man. Should Bost be the Speaker, Lassiter will become chairman of one of the important committees.

Keep an eye on this fellow Lassiter. Charlotte is politically hungry; and they are already saying there that some day Lassiter will be Governor. He is young, sincere, gives the impression of stability, is a good thinker on his feet, and is an adroit parliamentarian. If our memory serves well Bob Lassiter was All American at Yale where he went on leaving Woodbery Forest School, in Virginia. At Woodberry he was senior prefect and an honor student and outstanding athlete.

OTHER CANDIDATES — The Legislature was camping grounds for J. C. Pittman of Sanford, former member of the Senate and regarded as a candidate for lieutenant governor. Another visitor was Roy Rowe of Burgaw, also a former member and also interested in becoming lieutenant governor.

John Larkin of Jones County is being talked as the next State Commander of the American Legion. This could prove an assist in his bid for the position now held by Pat Taylor. It might prove a detriment. Larkins knows he is away down east and realizes he must do a lot of knocking around "upstate" if he is to make the grade. He was voted by the newspaper folks as the most influential member of the recent State Senate. However, he expressed the opinion last week that this honor may do him more harm than good with teachers and other State employees. John is no reactionary. He is more liberal than is generally realized. He has been personally popular in all Senates in which he has served.

As for Governor, William B. Umstead is still away out in front. The Legislature seemed not to have much bearing either way in the gubernatorial battle since no members were prospective candidates. If Sam Ervin of Morganton, associate justice of the State Supreme Court, came about the Legislature nobody noticed it. Secretary of State Thad Eure was all over the place, but duties rather than politics took him there. Umstead came by once or twice.

The machine is not sold on William B. Umstead. That's a settled fact. But the machine wasn't for Kerr Scott and he made it. Umstead keeps plugging along, making a few speeches here, a few there. Right now he seems to be the only man who fully intends to run for Governor in 1952. That, if no other, is the reason he seems to be in the forefront at this time. The recent Legislature didn't seem to be too political-minded, but its decisions may have an important bearing on the way the people vote next year.

Voice of the People

What is your favorite recreation? (This question was asked of Fines Creek teachers by Mrs. Sam Ferguson, Mountaineer reporter).

Thomas S. Hood: "Working with honey bees. I like it because there is never a dull moment."

Mrs. T. D. Brummitt: "Playing basketball, baseball and volley ball."

Esther Galloway: "Talking—if I can get someone to listen to me."

Mrs. Bonnie Verastko: "I like trout fishing."

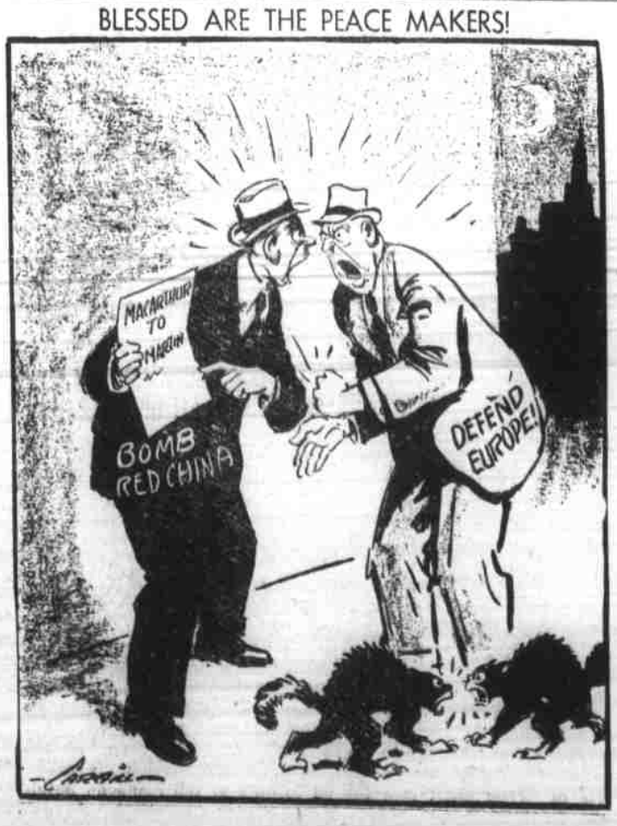
E. Seay: "Going places, seeing and doing things."

Charles Duckett: "Fishing is my favorite recreation."

Mrs. F. M. Noland: "Camping and fishing."

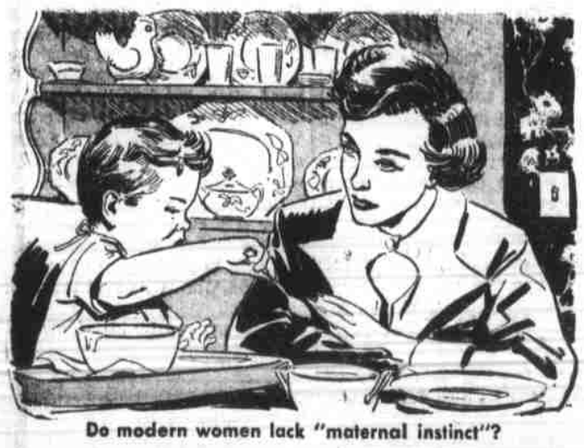
Mrs. Frank Bradshaw: "Camping and reading."

BLESSED ARE THE PEACE MAKERS!



MIRROR OF YOUR MIND

By LAWRENCE GOULD
Consulting Psychologist



Do modern women lack "maternal instinct"?

Answer: Basic instincts do not change, but a given instinct may find different avenues of expression in different times and cultures. The instincts which made the primitive mother find her supreme satisfaction in life in her children are nowadays often blocked, or diverted into other channels. The more "ego-satisfaction" and prestige a woman gets from other sources, the less absorbed she will tend to be in her babies—and you can't be a "devoted mother" solely from a sense of duty. Helping women to enjoy and to be proud of motherhood is the only real solution.

Should "disturbed" children go to special schools?

Answer: Not if they can be restored to mental health at home, says Dr. Bruno Bettelheim, principal of the Orthogenic School, Chicago. Nothing that the best school of this type can give a child quite makes up for what he can get from his parents if they can be taught to understand him and help him to solve his problem. We must recognize, however, that the "problem child" is created by problem parents and that if the parents cannot be re-educated, a substitute home must be provided, or the child will never have a fair chance in life.

May doctors be "kill-joys"?

Answer: They were frequently so in the past. Being human, they had the age-old neurotic notion that whatever is unpleasant is "good for you," and often unconsciously tried to cure patients by making them uncomfortable. The fight against anesthesia was one illustration of this, and the relatively recent fad for sleeping outdoors in cold weather was, perhaps, another. Nowadays, physicians are gradually realizing that anything which a normal person enjoys should be presumed to be good for him unless clearly proved otherwise, and that pleasure as such is good medicine for both mind and body.

Rambling 'Round

—Bits Of Human Interest News—
By Frances Gilbert Frazier

Little Johnny was getting pretty tired of having to go after his little sister who had developed a habit of running away. One day after he had returned the little truant three times, he went to his mother highly indignant and resentful. "Mother," he emphatically announced, "I am going to tie a big bell around sister's neck just like Grandpa does to his cows down on the farm."

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"A rose by any other name" might be as sweet but it wouldn't be as expensive.

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Usually a lesson that sits on our own doorstep makes the most lasting impression. One day recently we felt that our feelings had been rudely stepped on and we brooded over it until it assumed the proportions of a chasm that would entirely separate us from some one whom we really deeply admired. Then all of a sudden we put our wounded feelings and pride in our pocket and went to the other person involved. In one minute's explanation, the chasm was closed and a valued friend was still in our possession.

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Omigosh: "Mrs. X has been confined to her home as the result of a bad fall. Her foot caught in an extension cord and fell on her entanglement."

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Little Mary came home from kindergarten crying bitterly. Her mother, very much worried, asked the reason and Mary replied, her voice muffled with tears, "Mommie," she sobbed, "the teacher said she would soon get my character whipped into shape."

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Decapitation: Snow; No head.

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April's lease has expired and she is busily packing up all her longings, for the new tenant is waiting to move in. April is a neat housekeeper and leaves her premises in perfect order. She has used plenty of rainwater for cleaning and has polished the silver of the moon and the gold of the sun. Bowls are filled with apple blossoms and spirea and in vases, while scattered around are blooms of many colors. A green carpet is spotlessly spread out for the feet of the new tenant and all is in readiness. Anxiously May waits with smiling anticipation to take possession.

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Eavesdropping: "All the time she was talking about her husband she thought I was being polite while really I was being impolite."

Letters to the Editor

LIKES THE ARMY

(Space does not permit printing in full a letter received from M. R. Scruggs, the son of Lee Scruggs of Waynesville; but families of men entering the Army may be interested in knowing the feeling it inspires in a man who has already seen service.)

Editor, The Mountaineer:

. . . One of the Army's contributions is to instill individual soldier a deep sense of honor, of fair play, and pride in being a member organization which assures survival of all the principles of freedom, without which the people of all free countries would be plunged into the Dark Ages.

My message to parents: You made great sacrifices in last war in the hope that peace would at last be restored to a sick planet.

Now you see that as long there exists in the world a . . . with world conquest as ultimate goal, with leaders who know no God, or power greater than their own . . . and to whom man life is cheaper than a rifle—as long as such people in power, you must continue sacrifice.

Sgt. 1/c M. R. Scruggs
Wd. 9B U. S. Army Hospital
Atterbury, Indiana.

Inside WASHINGTON
MARCH OF EVENTS

Making Contempt Citation Stick Most Difficult Task | **Kefauver Attention To Union of Democracies**

Special to Central Press

WASHINGTON—The Kefauver crime committee's much-vaunted "ace in the hole" for defiant witnesses—a contempt of congress citation—is not the tough weapon it appears to be. If the board on convictions is any indication.

To date, six persons have been acquitted for refusing to answer questions asked by congressional committees. Among them are Browder, former head of the Communist party in the United States and Frederick Vanderbilt Field, New York millionaire, sometimes described as the "angel" of Red party programs.

Senator Estes Kefauver

However, this doesn't mean that the recent acquittals of Frank Costello, Frank Erickson and other accused racketeer, Joe Adonis, will not stand up, although the odds—an appropriate term—are to be against the government.

In some of the acquittals, it was noted that judges took a strong stand in requiring the Justice department to prove beyond any scintilla of doubt that the witnesses had no right to refuse answers out of fear of incrimination.

* * *

● **KEFAUVER'S FUTURE**—Senator Estes Kefauver (D), Tennessee, wants to forget about the famous crime investigation and take up the cudgel for another project close to his heart—a union of the Atlantic democracies.

A Senate subcommittee held hearings on the federation proposal last year to no avail and few lawmakers expect any better results this session of Congress. They are reckoning, however, without the determined energies of Estes Kefauver.

The Tennessean's crime committee investigation reached proportions beyond all expectations. If he puts the same effort into the Atlantic Union plan perhaps it, too, will become a dazzling success.

Kefauver has made it clear that the union is to be his major consideration once he is free of the crime committee.

"Since this investigation was started," he said, "another most serious crime has developed. I refer to the international crime of war perpetrated in Korea. I consider it my bounden duty to turn my efforts and time from local and national crime to international crime."

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● **HOUSE COSTS**—The cost of building a home or remodeling or repairing an old one probably will increase slightly under an order now being studied by lumber specialists in the Office of Price Stabilization.

The order would exempt lumbermen from the general manufacturers' price ceilings expected to be issued shortly.

Instead, lumbermen would be given special consideration on the theory that their product is unique in the field of manufacturing.

* * * *

● **"STALIN, WE LOVE YOU"**—It will be a snowy day in August before Britons celebrate the Fourth of July or Americans sing *Save the King*, but something just as phenomenal is taking place in Bulgaria, a new branch of the Communists' "Workers' Paradise."

The Bulgars, one of the most intensely nationalistic races on earth in the days before the Iron Curtain, are now reported "clamoring" to learn Russian, the language of their new mentors.

The anti-Communist Bulgarian National Committee in Washington says that beyond their countrymen's strange new hunger to speak in Russian, they have, since Jan. 1, 1950, been singing a new national anthem.

To the tune of the old *Shumi Maritza*, which gained glory on the lips of Bulgaria's embattled patriots, the Bulgars now sing a song which contains these lines:

. . . Long live with the ages
Our military alliance
With the mighty brotherly Soviet Nation
The rays of the great sun of Lenin and Stalin
Light our path . . .