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Star-News Program
State ports with Wilmington favored in proportion with its resources, to include public terminals, tobacco storage warehouses, ship repair facilities, nearby sites for heavy industry and 35-foot Cape Fear river channel.
City auditorium large enough to meet needs for years to come.
Development of Southeastern North Carolina agricultural and industrial resources through better markets and food processing, pulp wood production and factories.
Emphasis on the region's recreation advantages and improvement of resort accommodations.
Improvement of Southeastern North Carolina's farm-to-market and primary roads, with a paved highway from Top-sall inlet to Bald Head Island.
Continued effort through the City's Industrial Agency to attract more industries.
Proper utilization of Blumenthal airport for expanding air service.
Development of Southeastern North Carolina's health facilities, especially in counties lacking hospitals, and including a Negro Health center.
Encouragement of the growth of commercial fishing.
Consolidation of City and County governments.

GOOD MORNING
He that hath no rule over his own spirit is like a city that is broken down, and without walls.—Proverbs 25:28.
Man who man would be must rule the empire of himself.—Shelley.

"Maginot Line" Attitude
Are too many Americans letting their confidence and admiration of science, certainly through no desire or fault of its own, lull them into a "Maginot line" attitude toward the problems of national defense?

Secretary of War Patterson, writing in the current issue of the Saturday Evening Post, indicates fear of such a situation.
"Perhaps the most popular and certainly the most misinformed argument against (the universal military training plan) is that war, in this atomic age, will be decided by a few technicians pushing buttons. This is strictly a vision of the cocktail-party scientist. You will find no such opinion among the top scientists and military men who developed the atomic bomb."

Few ideas are more dangerous than the one that the atomic bomb, the best example of our scientific headstart in war weapons, will keep this country safe from the remainder of the world. It will not.

But a real national defense program, based on a sound Regular army, National Guard, Reserve and universal military training, will. Unless the American people see that it is effected, their country will eventually become a bright attraction to a stronger one with dreams of world domination.

If, on the other hand, the United States maintains a respectable military strength, chances of attack are slight. Peace lies in our fighting might, actual and potential.

Those contending we are safe behind the works of science and there

Liquidating The Taxpayer, Too

Excessive public waste is disgusting but people become hardened to it in war. They tolerantly ignore wanton extravagance because they understand their country is fighting for its life and it is no time to question dollars rushing off to help achieve victory.

With restoration of peace, however, most return to a normal attitude toward economy and rightfully expect those handling public funds to do likewise. But apparently there are some officials who are either incompetent or, as far as money is concerned, as wildly wasteful as if we were still in a great emergency.

It is not necessary to go beyond Wilmington to see results of this woeful lack of judgment or sympathy in digging into the public pocketbook.

Sometime ago the U. S. Maritime commission established a reserve fleet lay-up basin here. Ships entering it are stripped of most of their removable appurtenances, such as instruments, linens, tableware, china, stores and other articles. It is best that these materials not be stored with the vessels and, shortly after their removal, are sold as surplus property. The financial return on these goods averages about 10 per cent of the original cost. Later, within a few days to weeks, many of these ships so stripped are withdrawn from the reserve fleet for sale, charter or general agency operations.

When removed from the reservoir, they are reequipped with the same type property recently taken from them and this must, in great part, be purchased on the open market at regular prices. Often, while this is going on, fully or partially equipped vessels are coming up the Cape Fear river to be processed and placed in the basin.

This practice, also involving considerable labor and transportation costs, simply transcends all bounds of common sense.

What is it costing the taxpayers? Early last week, a member of the House Merchant Marine and Fisheries committee, accompanied by counsel and an investigator, visited the Maritime commission's office in Norfolk. They spent the day discussing operations there similar to those carried out here. And the member, Rep. John C. Brophy (R-Wis.), has reported to his chairman that "we found one situation involving large and unnecessary costs to the government which I feel must be corrected immediately."

Rep. Brophy went on to report that "we have the names of ten ships on

which this (stripping, storage, removal and refitting) has been done which required open market purchases of approximately \$20,000 per vessel, or a total of \$200,000 for the ten ships. In other words, the Maritime commission is selling as surplus the same type of property which it is required to buy back shortly thereafter on the open market."

On the basis of his report and presuming that the same procedures are being followed at all the commission's anchorages, one is able to get an idea of how much money is being wasted here. Friday's Shipping News listed six "lay-up ships" being "refitted for duty" in this port. Therefore, applying Rep. Brophy's Norfolk findings, \$120,000 is being thrown away today. And this is just one of nine reserve fleet sanctuaries.

How is this extravagance nationally? A press release arrived yesterday from the commission's office in Washington. It said "the sale and chartering of government-owner merchant ships has lowered the total of vessels in reserve fleet anchorages to the lowest point since last June, when 1,262 were immobilized. During the month ending April 15 . . . 116 (ships) were withdrawn, leaving a total of 1,336, compared with the record high of 1,742 last December."

So, using the \$20,000 estimate for re-fitting each ship, the government wasted \$2,320,000 in 30 days.

To a layman, it may appear that a pitiful lack of coordination between the various branches of the commission is responsible for this.

But there is one man Vice Admiral W. W. Smith, chairman of the commission—who may be able to give a reason for this costly business.

Congress owes it to the people to summon him and others, if necessary, into public hearing and formally disclose more about this ridiculous squander. Perhaps other matters will develop in which questioning will be advisable. The war-time Maritime commission was a builder and turned out a "bridge of ships" with a speed that surprised the whole world, especially the enemy. The present commission is considered primarily a liquidator but the estimated waste of \$2,320,000 in handling 116 ships in one month would indicate it will be well on its way to liquidating the American taxpayer before its job of returning the Merchant fleet to normal is completed.

A Gift To Be Watched

John L. Lewis' United Mine Workers have made a bid for the independent National Federation of Telephone Workers union in the form of a \$100,000 check payable at the "convenience" of the organization.

It has been accepted and may be the step leading to the taking over of the NFTW by the AFL, through Mr. Lewis.

This situation is based on the same principle Mr. Lewis often used while in the CIO. There one craft, entirely different from another, would share its war chest with another union. Many a UMW dollar helped finance some of the larger automobile walkouts. And, of course, there were always definite obligations when the money was passed.

The important question, however, is whether the country's telephone workers want to come under the dominance of Mr. Lewis. Many are suffering financially through the current strike, the biggest they've ever attempted. Suppose they were called upon to walk out as frequently as Mr. Lewis orders his miners? That's something for them to consider and, for their own benefit, pass their conclusions to the higher-ups who grabbed up Mr. Lewis' "gift."

A boost from anybody always sounds much better than a boast.

A VOICE CRYING IN THE WILDERNESS



The Gallup Poll

Fear Of Another Big War Continues To Climb Throughout United States

Seventy-Three Per Cent Believe Conflict Likely Within 25 Years

By GEORGE GALLUP Director, American Institute of Public Opinion

PRINCETON, N. J., April 26.—Fear of war is rising throughout the United States. More than seven in every ten voters polled by the Institute say they think another war is likely within 25 years. Five out of every ten think it may come within ten years. This nervous attitude about present world conditions, with no peace settlement among the major powers, underlines many other basic American attitudes on current issues. It explains, for example, the large public vote which polls have found in favor of peacetime military training. It explains the country's cautious attitude toward reducing the army-navy budget. It is closely related to the public's dissatisfaction with the progress of the United Nations organization to date, as reported last week.

The fear of war is shown in the following poll results, including a trend over the past two years.

Table with 3 columns: Year, Yes, No, Opinion. Data for Mars, Mar, Aug, TODAY.

The latest poll also asked a separate but comparable question: "Do you think the United States will find itself in another war within, say, the next TEN years?"

The vote was yes 50 per cent, no 38 per cent, no opinion 12 per cent.

IF SUCH widespread fear of war exists then why, some observers ask, do the people want to follow a "tough" policy with Russia? Won't the current fears sooner or later make the American people want to soften their tone toward the Soviet?

The chief reason for the current attitude toward Russia appears to be that the American people remember with distaste the bad experience they had with appeasement in the 1930's.

Apprehension of Hitler, Mussolini and Hirohito did not prevent war. The feeling is very widespread today that an opposite policy is no more likely to lead to war than appeasement. The current mood or temper of the people is summarized in one statement from a voter polled four weeks ago by the Institute. He said:

"If we let Russia get away with her aggressive policy she'll start reaching out for more and more, and then we're bound to have a war on our hands. Dictators never know when to stop if you appease them."

When General George Marshall took office as Secretary of State, an Institute poll found the weight of opinion throughout the country in favor of a firmer policy toward Russia than that followed by his predecessor, James F. Barnes.

Today's polling finds a high uniformity of attitude among all groups in the population. Veterans, young, middle-aged and older voters, Democrats, Republicans, men, women—all think another war is likely within 25 years.

'We, The People' Deals With Costs Of Schools

By LYNN NISBET Wilmington Star-News Raleigh Bureau

RALEIGH, April 26.—The current issue of "We, The People" magazine has its feature story about the cost of the public school system for the year 1945-46. The tables and graphs presented and the explanation of them disprove several common beliefs about the schools of the state. In the first place, while the state carries major part of the load it is not true that the "state entirely supports the public school system." In the second place, the idea that expenditure of dollars determines the excellence of the school is refuted.

PROPORTION — Last year the operation of the nine months public school system cost \$53,864,852, of which the state paid \$43,871,169 and the local units \$9,993,683. On percentage basis this is 81.45 for the state, 18.55 for the county and city units. The state's part of the money comes from the general fund through legislative appropriation; that supplied by local units is derived from court fines, dog and poll taxes, special property tax levies, and in some instances personal or corporate donations.

VARIANCE — There is wide variance in the proportion of total school cost paid by the state and local units. Among the county units the ratio runs from 4.59 per cent paid by Yancey county, to 36.67 per cent paid by New Hanover, while in the city units the variance is from 4.40 per cent in Fairmont to 45.93 per cent in Durham. Comparable variance is found in the amount spent per pupil enrolled. Among the counties per pupil cost is highest in Camden, with \$98.09 per child, and lowest in Halifax with \$40.01. It is a coincidence that among city and administrative units the high and low in per capita cost are the same as the high and low in local contribution. Durham was top with expenditure of \$92.41 per pupil, while Fairmont was lowest with \$47.97. For the state as whole the average per pupil cost was \$65.37 — \$68.00 in city units, \$64.37 in rural schools.

EFFICIENCY — Because of many factors there is little conformity between amounts spent and efficiency of the schools. This is especially true with respect to the state's part of the cost. Where local communities have supplemented state funds the schools are better and there is much closer fidelity to the idea that more money should produce better opportunities. In rural schools the items of transportation and building have large bearing on total operational cost, and under the system of distributing state funds poorer communities get relatively larger share than wealthy ones. For example, it costs a lot more to keep a child in school nine months in Camden or York counties, than it does in any of the larger cities; but none will be so foolish as to say the schools in these counties are better than those in Charlotte, Greensboro or Asheville.

EQUALIZATION — Educational opportunity is far from equalized over the state as whole, but some effort in that direction is made in distribution of state funds. That is why the state pays 95.41 percent of the cost of the schools in Yancey county and only 54.07 per cent in the city of Durham. As a rule the cost of operating schools is much higher in the far east and the far west, whereas the concentration of population and wealth is in the central part of the state.

FAIR — Some thoughtless citizens of the richer counties see in this method of distribution discrimination against them. The magazine article points out that only 43 counties pay into the general fund of the state as much as they get back in school money alone, while some of these pay four or five times as much; but it is also noted that the big cities are merely collection centers and the money they collect in sales and income taxes was actually earned and originally spent in neighboring communities. By way of illustration the story says: "Johnson, Wake, Chatham, Franklin, Warren and many eastern counties, whose people trade in

Walter Winchell Newspaperman Vs. Newspaperman

Some of the most interesting newspaper yarns have been in the files of competitors to their type-writers. Occasionally, the conflicts went from word-slanging to bare-knuckle stuff. When James Gordon Bennett sparked the free-swinging style of journalism, the craft's rough and tumble era reached its peak. The fabulous Bennett often engaged in fistifights with rivals and made no secret of the battles. As soon as the slugging ended he would rush into print with a standard headline: "Bennett Thrashed Again!"

The fierce struggle for scoops (and the attempts to prevent competitors from getting them) has resulted in many tangles. Years ago one New York newspaper went so far as to hire sharpshooters to shoot down another gazette's carrier-pigeons.

Editor E. W. Howe once ran a searing editorial about a publisher who was mixed up in a drunken brawl. When the target wailed the attack had hurt the cause of journalism, Howe snapped: "Be-

Moscow Retreat

The World's Great Riddle

BY DEWITT MACKENZIE AP Foreign Affairs Analyst

That was a grand banquet which Prime Minister Stalin gave in the Kremlin to mark the conclusion of the deadeafened Franco-Soviet conference, and his toast was an impressive gesture.

One would like to be able to add that this marked the window of the doubts and suspicions and other differences which have been marring the relations of Russia and the Western Democracies. But when you search for something to which to pin your hope you don't find it.

They frequently refer to Stalin as the Sphinx of Moscow, because he is a man of so few words. And indeed as your columnist tries to extract any helpful sign from this banquet and courteous toast, he has the identical feeling he has experienced when standing before the great Egyptian Sphinx in the Sahara outside Cairo. You just stand and stand, and wonder what riddle that colossus may propound next to the confusion of mankind.

The banquet was perfect—as a banquet. But something was lacking. Not only was there the absence of hope which should mark a conference of the Big Four, but so far as one can judge from the distance there was no sign which could be taken for guidance in the future. The banqueters shook hands—and went their divergent ways without knowing whether the world is heading into another whirlwind or whether we can have peace.

And that, my friends, is exactly the riddle we have to solve. The next conference has been fixed for November in London, although the Big Four foreign ministers may get together briefly in September if all of them are in New York for the meeting of the United Nations assembly. Between now and then, this greatest riddle of the time must be figured out if the all-important German and American treaties are to be written.

From the standpoint of the Western allies, of course, the riddle resolves itself into the question of whether Russia really wants peace or whether she is bent on encircling the globe with Communism and making Moscow the capital of the world.

Russia's answer to this is that the Western Democracies, and especially the United States, are trying to encircle the Soviet Union and render it impotent.

If the suspicions of either camp are true, then another world upheaval is likely in due course—not now, but maybe ten or fifteen years hence, when the powers have recovered from the strain of the last conflict. If the suspicions are unfounded, then we can have peace. It will be a matter of dispelling the suspicions.

Meantime, the Moscow conference has produced one useful result. The Western Democracies under leadership of General Marshall have made it plain that they will retreat no further. That in itself may help to bring an answer to our riddle, because so long as the retreat continued, just so long would the Russian advance go on.

that Wake county pays into the general fund to more than four million dollars a year. The big counties are merely collecting agents."

PROGRESS — Since the magazine article quoted deals only with the record of the 1945-46 school year, little attention is given to the progress of the past few months and the indicated greater progress for next year. In more adequate local supplements to state school money. No ad valorem tax can be levied in counties or cities for the operation of the public school except by vote of the people. In a few cases, where amounts are small and the tax levied low, it may be possible to add a few cents for construction and maintenance of school buildings. In most cases, however, bond issues must be voted for that purpose. Of the 171 administrative units in the state, sixty now have special tax levies. Several elections have been held in the state this year either to levy new taxes or increase existing levies, and the last meeting of the state board of education authorized four more elections on this issue.

COOPERATION — This indicates that, although the state has greatly increased its appropriation for public schools, the local communities are alert to the responsibility resting upon them. Similar analyses of the 1947-48 school record may show that while state dollars number a great deal more, the percentage of local cooperation may be above the 18.55 per cent recorded for last year.

newspaper left all matters to the World to explain!"

During the Spanish-American war Big Town Gazette had a circulation war of its own. In an attempt to grab readers the N. Y. World printed an incredible 30 editions a day.

And the N. Y. Journal topped that by printing 40.

One of Greeley's journalistic "feats" had a tremendous effect on history. He engaged in a tough tussle with a publisher named W. H. Seward. Greeley never forgave his foe. . . . Years later Seward went into politics and looked like a cinch to cop the GOP Presidential nomination in 1860. However, Greeley's influential opposition ruined his chances. The famed editor supported another candidate and played a major role in winning the nomination for—Abraham Lincoln.

About a century ago the Star was a morning newspaper. It went in for sensational news, while

Letter To The Editor

Can U. S. Gamble Again On Old Plan For Germany?

To the Editor: In dealing with Germany, the United States cannot afford to indulge in wishful thinking. To pretend that Germany is flat on her back and will remain so, is to gamble with our future security. Yet Mr. Herbert Hoover, in his recent reports intimates that Germany is no longer a menace to our freedom and peace. As a matter of fact, he goes much further than that and states that the preservation of Germany's heavy industrial potential is the prerequisite for the recovery of Europe. But history shows that Germany's industrial potential has produced the very opposite effect. Instead of increasing European prosperity, Germany's industrial concentration has been used since Bismarck as an instrument of political, economic and military aggression. It has stunted the industrialization of some European na-

tions and has committed others to serve as raw-material reservoirs or dumping grounds for Germany's notorious marketing practices. We should not forget that the United States as well, was a victim of the ruthless and dishonest trading practices of Germany. We, too, were forced to make enormous sacrifices both in lives and in money to fight off the German hoofer. As a matter of fact Mr. Hoover recognized the German danger way back in 1918, when he helped write an introduction to a book entitled "The Future of German Industrial Exports." This is what he said in 1918: "Let the manufacturing, the banking interests and the laboring and professional classes of all nations be warned in time to devise antidotes and counter attacks to the Machiavellian devices of a class gone mad with lust of con-

quest, deliberately plotting to fatten itself upon the life blood of other peoples even after the war. Let us consider in making peace what protection we can give to the commercial existence of the freed nations. . . . One year later, Mr. Hoover changed his tune and worked for all-out American aid for the revival of Germany's industrial power. According to Mr. Hoover, this was necessary and "a good bargain because it saves the United States enormous expenditures in Europe. . . . In his recent reports to the President, Mr. Hoover voices the same concern for the American taxpayer although he discreetly passes over the fact that the government has already begun to rebuild Germany to the tune of one billion dollars in the next three years. Of course, this is only a starter and Mr. Hoover does not

bother to estimate the final costs of his "bargain." It is safe to say, however, that once we have committed ourselves to the rebuilding of Germany, we may have to underwrite the complete program. This is a blank check bearing no date for repayment and containing no obligations on the part of the recipient. Mr. Hoover's magnanimous gestures to our former enemies are already showing results. This can be seen in the deliberate sabotage which is being conducted by the Germans in obstructing the production and distribution of food. General Clay, head of AMG, Mined no words when he said on April 14, 1947, that the Germans had mishandled the food crisis and that cooperation among the Germans to increase the food sup-

(Continued on Page Eight)