

# NRA LEADERS ALTER TACTICS

## Industrialists and Business Men Encouraged By Change

(Special to The Press-Maconian)

WASHINGTON, October 17.—The most noticeable thing in the National Capital these days is the comparative peace that has descended upon the city since the retirement of General Johnson from control of the NRA. A new atmosphere, calmer and apparently more deliberate and reasonable, has already become noticeable in the offices of the Recovery Administration. Business and industrial leaders who have had business at NRA headquarters in the past week or two report that what they had to say was listened to with apparent respect. This is held to be encouraging to the belief that the Government may not, after all, frown upon the making of profits in business, and may be more inclined to modify some of the restrictions which have prevented the making of profits.

### Removing Obstacles

Chief among these obstacles, it is realized now, was the effort to put wages ahead of increase in business. The President's proposal for a "labor truce" in his recent radio address is being interpreted as indicating that the Government will not use its influence to force unionization, and will help to prevent the forcing of workers into unions by intimidation.

The most recent interpretation of the famous "7a" clause of the Recovery Act is that, while a majority of the workers in any industry may elect to join and be represented by any labor union or organization they prefer, that does not compel the minority to go along. Every worker retains his right of individual bargaining, and a minority group can set up their own collective bargaining organization.

On this matter of labor and wages, there is a good deal of talking and some deep thinking going on about the suggestion made by the President that perhaps the best way to approach the subject is from the point of view of annual income of the workers, rather than rate per hour or week. That has a definite bearing on the building trades, which are traditionally seasonal, and the high wages which are justified by labor on the ground that they don't work all the year

around. The President's reference to England as an example of recovery has led to inquiries about British wages. After making due allowance for differences in cost of living, which are not great, it seems to be the fact that building trades workers in England do not enjoy a much higher rate per hour than other industrial workers.

### Housing Work Booms

The matter of wages in the building trades has a bearing on the program of the Federal Housing Administration. That is starting out to be the most successful of all the Administration's plans so far. Applications for "modernizing" loans are increasing at the rate of 40 per cent a week, and the outlook for widespread new home building activity gets distinctly brighter from day to day.

The question of labor costs will shortly become a distinct concern of the Housing board. The average annual income of industrial workers in this country is estimated, in the best of times, at \$1,500 a year or thereabouts. Can building labor be spread out over a great number of operations so as to give every one of the four or five million unemployed in the building trades an annual income of that much or more, without loading labor costs too heavily on individual houses?

In the AAA they have just been taking a vote of farmers in the corn-hog belt, to see how many of them want to go along next season in the matter of crop reduction and birth-control in the hog family. The replies received so far indicate that more than 80 per cent of the farmers are for the continuance of the plan.

### Now a Cotton Poll

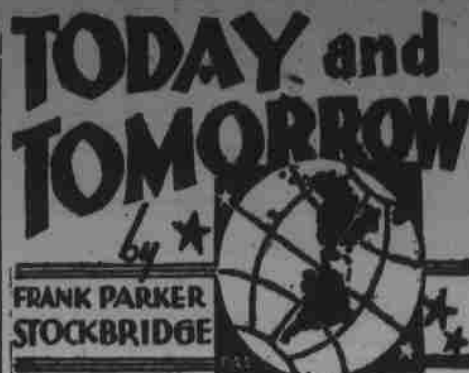
Another vote of farmers is to be called for soon, under the Bankhead cotton control law. As the law stands, the total production of cotton is limited to 10,000,000 bales a year, with exact quotas allotted to each grower and a fine of \$20 a bale for growing more than one's quota. But unless two-thirds of all cotton growers vote for a continuance of the plan, it is to be abandoned after one year.

### Helen Janet Raby, Age 2, Dies of Pneumonia

Helen Janet, two-year-old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Don Raby, died at their home at Oak Grove last Friday after an illness of six weeks with pneumonia.

Funeral services were held at the Oak Grove Baptist church Saturday morning at 11 o'clock, with the Rev. D. C. McCoy and the Rev. W. L. Bradley in charge.

Surviving are her parents and two sisters, Barbara and Jacqueline.



### TAXES . . . time to halt

I don't know of any community, county or state in which taxes have not gone up in the past two or three years. Certainly there is none in which taxes are not materially higher than they were ten years ago. I've just got my tax bills for 1934, and perhaps I'm unduly concerned; but I can't help coming back to the belief I have long cherished, that sooner or later we've got to abandon the tax on capital and find other and more equitable ways of raising money with which to run our various governments.

The real estate property tax is a tax on capital. Nothing like it exists anywhere else in the world, so far as I am informed. It was adopted in America in the pioneer days when there wasn't anything else, much, to tax except land. I like the English system much better. There property is taxed on the basis of what it earns—the income tax carried down to the income of everybody who owns a piece of property that is rented. Of course, there are other taxes, but they do not constitute a lien on real property.

Property taxes can't go much higher, in most parts of the nation, without stirring up a revolt against the present system.

### INCOMES . . . the average

The average income in the United States is said, by Henry Wallace in his new book, to be about or under \$1,500 a year. That includes everybody who works for a living—except farmers. He figures that the average farm income has been cut down from about \$1,300 a year to something like \$500 a year.

Of course, Mr. Wallace is talking about cash incomes. Out of his \$1,500 a year the industrial worker has to pay for food and lodging. If he has \$500 a year left he is either a financial wizard or just plumb lucky. But the farmer, out of his \$500 cash income, has to pay taxes and, like as not, mortgage interest, to say nothing of insurance and other items he can't "work out," so it's about as broad as it is long.

The fallacy, it seems to me, lies in comparing the farmer with the wage-earner. The proper comparison is between the farmer and the business man, owner of his own business. The farmer is a capitalist, and subject to the risks that all capital is subject to. That isn't to say that he doesn't have plenty of trouble, but at the worst he is not in such imminent danger of starvation as the unemployed industrial worker.

### STAMPS . . . for all taxes

I don't know how many kinds of Internal Revenue stamps there are, but it strikes me that the easiest and most painless way for any government to collect taxes is by making it illegal to sell anything that doesn't bear a Government stamp. I know that's merely another way of saying "sales tax," which is a phrase that always makes politicians see red. Nevertheless, some of our most important sources of revenue are from

the sales taxes, already in force.

There are revenue stamps on every bottle of liquor, every barrel of beer, every pack of playing cards, every pack of cigarettes or box of cigars. Shares of stock cannot be legally transferred without sticking revenue stamps on them. Everyone is familiar with the sales tax on gasoline.

The only reason why stamp or sales taxes are not imposed upon flour, potatoes, shoes, hats and canned goods, is the fear of the politicians in power that the ordinary man would thus be forced to realize that he is paying taxes, and would vote the politicians who imposed them out of office. There isn't any other reason at all.

### REALITIES . . . are few

Most of us live in a dream world, in which we think that there is some magic process, if only we could find it, which would make us happy and prosperous. When something unpleasant happens we are prone to attribute it to malicious fate, which can only be overcome by finding some new incantation which will work the right magic to set everything straight again.

Few people are courageous enough to face realities. The realities of life are terrifying to those who have been brought up to be-

lieve that "somebody" is always going to look out for them. They are not all frightful to the few who realize that nothing in life is essential to happiness except food and shelter.

I try to be tolerant of everybody else's foibles and frailties, but I get disgusted with people who think they are being badly used merely because they don't have everything they desire at the moment they desire it.

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