

The Franklin Press

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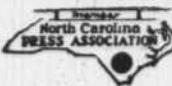
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WEIMAR JONES, Publisher

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Major Albright Says It

FROM Raleigh comes authoritative support of this newspaper's suggestion that Macon County should take positive steps to encourage its returning servicemen to stay at home.

R. Mayne Albright, himself a returned serviceman, resuming his position as state director of the U. S. Employment Service, well says the very things The Press has been attempting to say.

Major Albright, whose job it is to fit men and jobs together, points out the value of the returned serviceman to his home community: emphasizes small, local industries and service plants; adds a number of concrete suggestions; and, finally, touches on the importance of planning.

A dispatch from Raleigh outlining Major Albright's views follows:

New local industries and service organizations should be established in scores of North Carolina communities if this state hopes to keep and utilize the services of many of its trained and valuable former service men, now returning home in increasing numbers, in the opinion of Major R. Mayne Albright, just back from military service and in his former position of state director of the United States Employment Service.

Many North Carolina communities, even the smaller ones, have citizens who could, individually or in groups, set up small industries, rural industries, or service plants, which could furnish employment to hundreds of returning service men. Even servicemen could form many such small industries, Major Albright believes, which would utilize their own services and those of other veterans or returning war workers.

A few industries which can be operated in almost any North Carolina community, using local labor and requiring small capital, are enumerated by Major Albright, as follows: Processing, dehydrating or canning poultry, fish, fruits and vegetables; peanuts, soy beans and other vegetables; producing and developing stone, concrete, clay, glass, sand, and other such products; manufacturing tents, awnings, mattresses, shirts, neckties, gloves, belts, shoestrings, and other garments; lumber, plywood, veneer, furniture novelties, caskets, venetian blinds, wastebaskets, book ends, and other novelty and souvenir items.

Hundreds of such industries, developed on small scale, would make use of local raw products, adding immensely to their value, and bringing wealth into many communities, in addition to giving employment to many veterans, returning war workers and others.

Otherwise, many workers constitute a possible drain on the community and taxpayers, by drawing unemployment benefits or servicemen's readjustment allowances, by remaining idle, or by migrating to other centers seeking remunerative employment.

"The State Planning Board will cooperate with individuals in any communities in developing local industries," said Major Albright. "Our interest, in the U. S. Employment Service, is in developing jobs to use the workers we have and in making studies to determine the types of workers needed in local industries. Our local USES offices will cooperate fully in promoting any such activities," Major Albright said.

Mr. Sloan's Letter

The management of The Press takes pride in the quality of the letters to the editor published in this newspaper in recent weeks, and of course it is indeed grateful for the kind things said about the paper.

The primary purpose of an open forum such as the "Letters" column of The Press, however, is to afford an opportunity for the discussion of public questions.

For that reason, The Press is particularly happy to publish in this issue a letter from Mr. W. N. Sloan. The fact that Mr. Sloan disagrees with a Press editorial is of minor consequence. The important thing is that he has chosen a vital public matter, discussed it thoughtfully and with conviction, and supported his argument with facts and figures.

It is from such discussion that an informed public opinion is developed, and more letters like Mr. Sloan's are invited.

LETTERS

PRAISES MRS. JOHNSON'S WORK

Dear Editor:

It was my privilege to know the late Mrs. J. W. C. Johnson personally. She was one of the very finest characters I have ever met. How loyally she stood for what her conscience said was right! Unflinchingly she fought for true democracy. Religion was true service to her fellowmen. Her heart's desire was for the betterment of the children of the county.

The last time I saw her she was sitting up in bed writing an editorial for The Press.

She would, indeed, be glad, I'm sure, if she could speak, and tell you to carry on the great unfinished work.

Truly, I like your timely editorials in regard to our returning servicemen—and women; and also the same well applies to many, who so nobly did their part in many of the defense plants, making B-29's and atomic bombs.

Very truly yours,

MRS. F. E. MASHBURN

Gneiss, N. C.

January 19, 1946.

DISAGREES WITH EDITORIAL

Dear Weimar:

I want to congratulate you on the fine work you are doing with The Press. I have become a cover to cover (if a paper had covers) reader, and greatly enjoy being brought up to date each week on the news of my home county. I have also enjoyed several of your editorials—particularly the first one in which you greeted old friends and your home town and outlined what you hoped to do with the paper, and a more recent one entitled "Gold Through Our Fingers". By my standards both were very fine.

But now I must confess, regrettably, that I was brought to the point of writing to you by an editorial with which I completely disagree, instead of the ones which I liked so much. I refer to the one in the January 17 issue entitled "They Can't Explain Away Facts". It seemed to me that your editorial attempted to do just that.

Some of the facts which you seemed to either deny or overlook are:

1. Since last summer the army has brought home and discharged approximately 5,000,000 men. This is an almost unbelievably creditable record of accomplishment. It is much better than the army or anyone else thought possible last summer.

2. The rate of discharge reached a peak of about 1,000,000 men per month. As there are only about 4,000,000 men in the army now, without a slow-down, it is perfectly apparent that in four or five months Generals MacArthur and McNarney would have been left to occupy Japan and the American zone in Germany by themselves. Present enlistment and induction under the Selective Service Law makes little more than a trick.

3. Instead of hysteria among troops, public, and Congress being caused by vacillating policies of the heads of the Armed Forces, these same heads have been moved by the hysteria itself to make ever increasing efforts to discharge every soldier possible, and by Christmas, if possible, until at last the danger point was reached.

4. The War department has not admitted that, "It needs only 1,500,000" now. That is the next July figure. It is a reasonable assumption that there is considerable difference between the need today and next July when conditions, we hope, will be somewhat more settled.

5. We are not out of the war yet. It is true that the fighting seems to be over, but if we keep it that way our Army has a big job to do, now and for years to come. What it is doing now is probably more difficult than, and just as important as, what it did when it had only to move forward and kill the enemy.

6. Although, as you say, our civilian authority is superior to the military, it is the rankest folly to suggest that President Truman or Senator Hoey knows as well as Generals Eisenhower and MacArthur how many men we need to control enemies, not all of whom have yet laid down their arms. We have experts to give answers to technical problems. A very deplorable fact is that members of Congress so constantly disregard the answers.

And, finally, I think that you have been in close contact with public affairs too long not to know that statements by our Senators and Representatives are not very good sources of facts. They are too often made not for the purpose of giving someone the facts, but to play on the prejudices and emotions of us, their constituents. And too often they succeed.

And now please forgive the tirade. Every now and then I get so hot that I boil over. And this criticism of the Army almost before it gets its bayonets dry, whether it comes from the public, from ill informed or insincere Congressmen, or from irresponsible members of the Army itself warms me considerably.

I am looking forward to seeing you on my next trip to Franklin, although I don't know just how soon that may be.

Sincerely,

W. N. SLOAN, SR.

Atlanta, Ga.

January 19, 1946.

Others' Opinions**THINK IT OVER**

THE price of a man's life may be hanging in your closet. In a chest in your attic may lie the decision as to whether a child shall live or die. The future of millions of men, women and children is for sale . . . and the price of that future is one you and I can so easily afford to pay.

These are the people who with their lives and homes bought us the days and months and years of Time we had to have to win the War. Now we can buy them the days and months and years of Time they have to have to win the Peace.

Does it seem fantastic that your old clothes, spare clothes, cast-off shoes, blankets, can be a factor in rebuilding this chaotic world? Think it over. Farmers cannot work the land without adequate clothing to protect them from the weather; children cannot attend school without warm clothing; women cannot go about the tasks of marketing without sufficient clothing to withstand long hours in ration lines; babies cannot grow strong without clothing to shield their frail, undernourished little bodies from disease; the sick, the sufferers from pneumonia, malaria, scabies, the many illnesses caused by exposure and malnutrition, cannot hope to recover their strength without clothing, shoes and bedding. Cities cannot be rebuilt, factories cannot produce again, civilization cannot be reborn unless those who must do the work, have the clothing to give them the warmth of courage and hope.

Together with our allies, the uninvaded countries of Canada, Australia and New Zealand, we have contributed millions of pounds of clothing, sufficient to aid more than 25,000,000 victims of war overseas. We must do more, we must not forget other millions in most dire need. From Holland, Norway, Greece, Poland, China, the Philippines, Italy, Czechoslovakia, France, Belgium, Yugoslavia, comes the same cry—Can't you send more clothing?

The Victory Clothing Collection being conducted on behalf of UNRRA between January 7th and 31st will help to fill this need. Every one can give at least one garment, a pair of shoes, a piece of bedding toward the national goal of 100,000,000 garments. You are invited to enclose a good will letter with your contribution of clothing as an adventure in international friendship.—Marion Progress.

At V-J Day soldier passenger traffic within the Fourth Service command, covering the Southeast, totaled 8,097,295 trips, exclusive of the travel of individuals, parties and groups from one to 14 men.

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Thank you!

THE FRANKLIN PRESS