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Stupid And Disgraceful

SOME of us here in Macon County oppose labor unions as a matter of principle; others favor the principle of union but recognize the disadvantages and abuses; but the majority in both groups have been agreed in indulging the hope that we, in this county, might be able to maintain relations between employer and employe so just and so amicable as to make unions unnecessary.

If that be our aim, nothing could have been more stupid than last week's wrecking of a union organizer's automobile, with a threat left on the car that the organizer should leave town. Those who did it tended to make a martyr of the organizer; and, human nature being what it is, they probably have re-doubled the union leaders' determination to organize Macon County labor.

That, however, is not the most serious feature of the occurrence. For the men responsible for this incident violated two basic American rights: The right of free speech; and the right to protection of property.

It is true that no one was hurt and that the property damage was not financially tremendous; and some persons here are inclined to take the attitude that "It serves him right". But how would they feel had a non-union citizen of this county, visiting in a union community, been accorded similar treatment?

Such evidence as is available indicates that what happened was mob rule, on a small scale. The next logical step would be a personal attack on a man because we disagree with his views. And the next, a lynching.

The incident is a disgrace to this community.

Until it is punished, it makes a mockery of the law.

Truman And Taxes

This nation's debt is so great that the figures are meaningless to most of us. At present this country is enjoying unprecedented prosperity—and it is an axiom in business to pay off debts during good times. Finally, America today has the greatest commitments in its history, and stands in imminent danger of war.

Yet the Congress of the United States has chosen this time to reduce taxes. And members of the North Carolina delegation—with the exceptions of Reps. Deane, Clark, and Cooley—went along with the herd in voting to override the Presidential veto of the tax bill.

On this issue, congress has shown little statesmanship, and less courage.

But in Washington there is one man, though political disaster faces him from every direction, who has stuck by his convictions. Whatever his faults and weaknesses—and they are many—Harry Truman has courage.

UMT And Peace

The chances are we are going to have universal military training in this country, or the draft, or possibly both. And if we are going to have them in the end, the quicker the better; congress should make up its mind.

For these measures are designed quite as much to call Russia's bluff—to convince the masters of the Kremlin that we mean what we say, and thus possibly to avoid an immediate war—as they are as actual preparations for war.

If, however, we do adopt these policies—particularly UMT—Americans should keep in mind two things:

1. What we are doing is to meet an immediate emergency, and advocates of universal training should not be permitted to assume that we have adopted the policy as a permanent, peacetime program. UMT is contrary to every tradition of America, and its value, other than as an emergency measure, is highly debatable.

2. Universal military training, the draft, the atom bomb, and other forms of force may be necessary in the present situation, but never for a moment should we believe that they can afford more than a fleeting security. For they merely counter Russia's display of force with one of our own; they will drive Russia to some further measure; we will

counter again; and so it will go—with war, at some time, the inevitable result.

Security in today's world can be achieved only through peace. And understanding, not force, is the only road to peace.

High Haven

(Reprinted from Raleigh News & Observer)

As a lost child longs for its mother,
As the mother would call to her child,
So, when the wildwood beckons
I will answer the call of the wild.

I will climb to the crag of the raven,
To the crest of the wild rocky steep,
And there I will build me a haven
Where the north wind will rock me to sleep.

Entranced by the wind's mellow largo
As it blends with the thunder's roll,
I will watch the Master of Painters
As He paints the canopied scroll.

There at the feet of the Master
In the dusk of the moon's yellow light,
From the book that is written with diamonds,
I will read the Psalm of the Night.

And there all fear for the morrow
Shall pass as the morning dew,
And care, like the wind-borne raven,
Shall soar and fade from view.

LETTERS

TAXATION AND REPRESENTATION

Dear Editor:

In my daily routine as retail merchant in the Nantahalas, I'm in position to hear the public sentiment in regard to the condition of roads and neglect of the Nantahalas. I find the sentiment and interest very great and all the articles that have been going in The Press confirmed by every citizen and taxpayer in these two Nantahalas.

With all our veterans of World War 1 and 2—who fought for the same cause as that of the rest of Macon County and the U. S.—our citizens and taxpayers feel we have been sorely neglected by county and state. It should be of interest to every citizen and taxpayer of Macon County to know in these two Nantahalas we have been blessed with scenery unequalled in Macon County or the State of North Carolina.

We read in our daily papers of appropriation after appropriation being set aside for farm-to-market roads, and wonder why and where the shortage in the county or state systems that we never see any of these appropriations; we wonder why, when we pass through the county and find practically every township except ours with a black top road joining or running through each one.

We know, from a political standpoint, we are growing in number and strength, which we hope to use in the near future to the advantage of Macon County, not just the Nantahalas. We have no prejudice toward the rest of the county, but we think we have had taxation without a voice or representation long enough.

We ask every citizen to check all tax records and find how much taxes we pay, then check our roads and needs and conditions and give us your opinion of the balance of which we have been deprived. In taxation, we find we have been weighed for our taxes, and found in the balance wanting.

—GEORGE W. DOUTHIT.

Flats, N. C.
April 8, 1948.

Others' Opinions

REFORESTATION NEEDS

An illustration of the magnitude of the reforestation problem in South Carolina is found in the amount of lumber and wood taken from a single county within a year.

C. W. Hall, extension forester, says Chester county forests produced over 1,800 carloads of these products in 1946, enough to make a train of cars 16 miles long. And of course many more carloads were taken off the land for firewood and other purposes at the same time.

These figures are applicable in more or less degree to all of the counties in the state. In the aggregate, tremendous quantities of trees are cut for the manufacture of paper and for the many uses to which lumber is put. These must be replaced, either by man or by nature, if this invaluable natural resource is to be conserved for the use of each succeeding generation.

One has but to ride through the Southeast to realize that nature has not been equal to the task of replacing the wood resources as fast as man has taken them for his purposes. Millions of acres of land have been stripped of trees without being given an opportunity to replace them promptly.

Reforestation is an enterprise in which man and nature must cooperate all the time to prevent the overexploitation of an irreplaceable resource. And many sections already have reached the point in this exploitation where at least two to three trees should be planted for every one that is removed.

—Greenville (S. C.) News.

WHY WE HAVE INFLATION

A number of excellent anti-inflation programs, which were designed to attack basic causes and not spar ineffectually with symptoms, have been proposed. These programs have varied in detail, but they have all dealt with the same conditions—government spending, tariffs, subsidies, the wage-price spiral, etc. They have been widely praised by leading newspapers and magazines. Yet, their chance of adoption, at this time, is so remote as to be non-existent—politics must be played at the expense of the country.

The reason for that is the pressure groups. We all want to fight inflation at the expense of the other fellow—and to make none of the sacrifices ourselves. The farmers don't like to pay high prices for feed and machinery—but they are all for policies which may artificially keep the prices of farm products high. Business men talk about excessive demands by labor—but they vociferously favor policies which protect the price of whatever they produce. Labor blames industrial profits, even as it demands more and more wage hikes which will inevitably become a part of the selling price of goods. And public officials blandly ignore the direct relationship between government spending and inflation.

In time, a real anti-inflation program, which will call upon every segment of the economy to do its share, may be forced upon us by dire necessity. In time, we may learn that abundance is possible only through work, and that big cash earnings which are more than offset by ever-rising prices do us no good. Until then, inflation will remain the most ominous domestic problem. Those who rail at storekeepers or producers or any other group for jacking up prices are the victims of a tragic ignorance. Fighting inflation has much in common with fighting a war—everyone must take his place somewhere in the lines.—Spindale Sun.

Dwelling on troubles doesn't help to remove them.

—B. S. Forbes.

It is human nature to hate those whom we have injured.

—Tacitus.

ADMINISTRATOR'S NOTICE

Having qualified as administrator of Paul Patton, deceased, late of Macon County, N. C., this is to notify all persons having claims against the estate of said deceased to exhibit them to the undersigned on or before the 15 day of March, 1949 or this notice will be plead in bar of their recovery. All persons indebted to said estate will please make immediate settlement.

This 15 day of March, 1948.

ERWIN PATTON,
Administrator.

A8-6tp-M13



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