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Tuesday, October 9, 1951

**Who's Talking Now?**

Jesse Jones, that keen financial wizard or manipulator, says the Reconstruction Finance Corporation should be closed up. He is quoted as saying that the RFD has violated all moral standards and the public trust, whether it has violated any laws or not. The agency was created to serve an emergency, Jones is quoted as saying.

Possibly the emergency was over when a certain spot in Texas was built up. Of course, the emergency still existed when a certain railroad was lent close to \$100 million.

Of all the people in this fair land of ours to talk about the RFC, it would seem that Jesse Jones should be the last to open his mouth.

The RFC was created under Hoover. It was created to meet an emergency, so everyone said. We are told that it is no longer needed, but there are so many who are still hollering about the condition of the country, declaring that it is on the brink of ruin.

**Iranian Oil**

Instead of flowing through pipes and into gas tanks, Iranian oil is flowing in the form of words through the UN Security Council in New York.

It is readily admitted that Britain has about three billion dollars tied up in Iran, but there must be some reason why the investment rests on such shaky grounds.

Some are charging the British with having fomented the crisis because:

The oil company has its headquarters in London and there isn't a single director in Iran.

The British treasury gets more from the oil firm than Iran gets in taxes and royalties combined.

Britain's navy buys oil at a price unknown to the Iranians.

The Iranians do not know how much oil is sold; they only suspect the amount taken from their lands and sold.

Iran gets less for its oil in the form of royalties than received by other countries whose oil resources are being exploited by outside interests.

There are few Iranians in important jobs, and the British went about the business of taking oil from Iran just as if it wasn't any of Iran's business.

At one time it appeared that the Britons would stick there even if such action would lead to all-out war, meaning that it would lose all the oil fighting the war and leave none for anybody or for any constructive purpose. However, a British government leader comes along and declares he isn't ready or willing to cease total war on account of Iranian oil.

**Double Disgrace**

Miserable conditions surround the housing problem in military base areas, and judging from pictures appearing recently in the State press, the situation could be little or no worse in the bombed out areas or even in the countries behind the iron curtain. The housing facilities in the military areas are a disgrace.

And now comes along a report maintaining that the Air Force is asking an appropriation to cover the construction of 910 homes in Alaska at a cost of more than \$58,000 each. That's the other side of the disgrace.

To aggravate it all is a story telling how the Army dismantled a \$16 million camp in Alaska and shipped the lumber to Seattle where another agency took over and shipped the lumber back to Alaska, stopping it at a point within ten miles of the site where the original camp stood.

**Vivid Portrayal**

Washington Daily News.

Dr. Tzvetan Litov, native Bulgarian, made a vivid portrayal of the impending clash between democracy and communism at the Kiwanis meeting in Washington recently.

Dr. Litov spoke out of his own experience. He has lived under both systems of government, and he knows of what he speaks.

Perhaps the most dynamic presentation we could have of such a state as that of communism comes from the experience of those who have lived under the regime behind the iron curtain.

It is difficult for an American who has never known what it is to be without freedom to appreciate conditions as they really are under a communistic state. We have not had police check on us daily. We do not have loved ones disappear and vanish completely. We do not have concentration camps, and we do not have censored radio programs. We are allowed to read in our newspapers the full news without any idea that part of it has been cut out or censored so that it will conform to the principles of the party in power.

We even allow the Daily Worker, communist paper, to publish. We are allowed to criticize our government and even the president of the United States. We may own property, and we can travel anywhere in the United States we please without fear of police persecution.

Yet, we Americans fail to realize and appreciate the fact that behind the iron curtain people are existing under fear. They do not know the meaning of the word "freedom." They hear a few broadcasts from Free America, but to them those broadcasts picture more of a dream to be sought than a reality to be known.

We in America have never known what it is to be really hungry. We have never known what it is to be without trial by jury. Since our conceptions of the way of living are so different from those of the communist dominated people, it is naturally hard for us to understand such a state of affairs.

If somehow, all Americans could live under the communist rule for one week and then at the end of that time, we could go back to democracy, we would surely get on our knees and thank God that we live in a democracy where we decide issues by the ballot and not the bullet.

What a revelation such an experience would be to all Americans! It is not that any of us want to live under communism even for one minute. But the truth is that we have something so great and appreciate it so little.

It is sad, but true. Think what our freedom and our material wealth mean to a foreigner coming to this country for the first time! Dr. Litov has had all these experiences.

Yes, America is a pretty good place after all. When we even try to understand how the other half of the world lives, we are engrossed with a fear and a strange conception of liberty and freedom. To us what is reality is taken for granted. To those behind the iron curtain, reality is grim and heartbreaking.

**Where's Byrd and Company?**

It would seem that Harry Byrd and some of his followers are so everlastingly busy hollering about economy that they can't find time to do anything about bringing about economy in certain places, to be sure.

Not so long ago the United States Senate, the august body that it is, passed S-436. As far as it could be learned the Virginia bird did not even vote. No report could be had on Hoey and Smith. Maybe they did and maybe they didn't, but it is reasonably safe to bet they were not against it.

It is true the measure does not mean a great deal, but by voting for the measure, the august body just favored handing over about fifty-seven million dollars to the big commercial airlines in the form of a mail subsidy.

The subsidy will come out of taxes, and it comes at a time when the penny postal is being supplanted by a two-center.

The people want to know where Mr. Byrd hides when he can lend a helping hand to economy as it affects all the people. Maybe he's off with Hoey figuring how to increase the little guy's tax, lower the big fellow's tax and give the difference, if any, to the big boys.

**Will Mr. Byrd Chirp?**

The United States Department of Agriculture is stepping into the Virginia apple market, according to a recent report coming out of Richmond.

Surely, the Virginians are entitled to consideration. But will Mr. Byrd chirp about economy when action is taken in behalf of apple growers?

No pleasure is comparable to the standing upon the vantage-ground of truth.—Francis Bacon.

**Employment In Martin County**

Average monthly employment in North Carolina for the first quarter of 1951 was 10 percent above that of a year before, but slightly under the average for the last quarter of 1950, it is revealed by Chairman Henry E. Kendall, chairman of the Employment Security Commission of North Carolina. This is employment covered by the Employment Security Law.

Total average monthly employment in January, February and March amounted to 690,022, pulled down some by low employment in January. Average monthly employment in March reached the highest point recorded since October, 1950. Due to high inventories reached in later months, employment probably shows a decline in months since.

Payrolls in covered employment in the first quarter of this year amounted to \$441,201,318. This gives an average weekly wage of \$49.18, which is above the first quarter average for several years, but below the last quarter of 1950. This is due to the fact that bonuses, commissions and contingent or incentive pay are frequently distributed at the end of the year.

In major divisions of employment, the figures on average employment, total wages, and average weekly wages for the two principal classifications, are as follows: construction: average employment, 47,341; total wages, \$28,097,279; weekly wage, \$45.65 - manufacture: average employment, 428,354; total wages, \$277,165,203; weekly wage, \$49.79 - transportation and communication: average employment, 35,096; total wages, \$25,153,478 - trade: average employment, 123,044; total wages, \$68,706,853 - finance, insurance and real estate: average employment, 16,430; total wages, \$12,961,055 - service and other: average employment, 39,757; total wages, \$19,117,450.

Martin County, in the first quarter of 1951, had average employment of 1,438 covered workers, which was a loss of 5.21 percent, as compared with the last quarter of 1950. Total wages paid in this county during the quarter reached \$718,849 with an average wage of \$38.45.

In the five major divisions of employment, the figures for this county follow: construction: average employment, 35; total wages, \$16,464; average weekly wage \$36.18 - manufacture: average employment, 776; total wages, \$385,797; average weekly wage, \$38.24 - transportation and communication: average employment, 101; total wages, \$84,833 - trade average employment, 431; total wages, \$198,623 - finance, insurance and real estate: average employment, 8; total wage, \$4,944 - service and other: average employment, 87; total wages, \$28,186.

**Number Drunken Drivers Gaining**

Raleigh—Drunken drivers last month—699 of them—comprised the state's third highest total of driver license revocations since the first of the year. The September summary of tipsy drivers, all of whom were required to surrender their license, climbed from the 654 persons convicted of similar charges in August. It topped every previous month since March by a substantial margin in the Department of Motor Vehicles reported today. In March 723 North Carolinians lost their licenses for drunken driving and 791 in January for the same offense.

Speeding over 75 miles per hour cost the driving privileges of 56 persons, up 18 over the 38 persons convicted of the same charge in August. Thirty-five were convicted of two counts of reckless driving, automatically cancelling their legal right to drive.

Other offenses, including larceny of automobile, driving after license suspended, transporting liquor, improper use of driver license, habitual violator and failure to maintain proof of financial responsibility resulted in 1,117 revocations and 394 suspensions during September.

**MARRIAGE STATISTICS**

There are three marriages every minute in the United States, according to the latest statistics of the Institute of Life Insurance. The big rush in romance followed the outbreak of the Korean war last summer, just as it did during World War II and couples continue to rush up the aisle at the rate of some 1,500,000 marriages per year.

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