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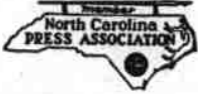
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**INDUSTRY'S DECLARATION**

Along about the middle of December the Congress of American Industry met in New York City, bringing together industrial leaders from every part of the land. These men heard experts speak upon every national problem of importance to manufacturers, and they also approved a document which represents the attitude and the belief of American industry as a whole. That document is commonly known as "Industry's Platform," and it is important for all Americans to know about its main points.

The Platform makes specific and important recommendations along many lines—it does the heart of anyone interested in the national welfare good to read them—and it closes with the following "pledge," in which more than 3,000 manufacturers representing large and small companies belonging to the National Association of Manufacturers concur:

"The 1940 Congress of American Industry reaffirms Industry's Program for American Progress and the Declaration of Principles Relating to the Conduct of American Industry, adopted by this Congress in 1938 and in 1939, and further pledges itself

"(1) to continue to defend against attack from any source the American concept of freedom—constitutional representative democracy; private enterprise and civil and religious liberty, including freedom of speech and freedom of the press;

"(2) to exert its utmost effort in cooperation with the government to carry out the program of national defense with all possible speed and efficiency;

"(3) to maintain at the same time, as far as possible, production of goods and services to meet normal needs;

"(4) to do its full part to prevent or cushion a threatened post-war economic depression, by supporting and following practices which will contribute to the maintenance of a healthy economic life; and

"(5) to continue to promote within industry, recognition and fulfillment of the economic and social responsibilities which industrial management shares with other groups for improvement and advancement of the general welfare.

"The Congress of American Industry Pledges Itself to Work For the Preservation of America's Institutions and the Protection of America's Future."

At a time when we need real "national thinking" on the part of all groups involved in the defense effort, this document is indeed an encouraging sign.

**POLITICAL LUXURIES MUST GO**

One recent statement of the President says that his next budget will involve drastic paring of government expenditures with the sole exception of those which have a direct bearing on the defense program. That is sound. It will meet with the approval of the people.

The President and his financial aids certainly have a wide field for slashing expenditures in many overgrown activities of the government. There can be no further excuse for relief spending on a grandiose scale, inasmuch as the rearmament drive is rapidly absorbing the unemployed, according to the government's own official figures. And, vastly important, there can be no further excuse for the spending of tax funds for purposes which can and should be left to private enterprise and private capital.

**BENDING NEUTRALITY**

Methods and proposals are being discussed in Washington to revise the Neutrality Act to permit American ships to carry war supplies to Britain. Of course that would be inviting danger to our shipping interests such as landed us in trouble in the World War. Some of the Senators have been vigorously defending the "cash and carry" program that has been in operation for some time.

**ELECTRIC POWER EXPANSION**

Judging by the attention that has been given the Federal government's hydro-electric projects, an uninformed person might be led to believe that the bulk of the nation's power supply now comes from this socialized source. But the fact is that 90 per cent of the demand for power is being satisfied by the private utilities—and that the abnormal demands for power occasioned by the defense program will have to be met by them.

According to Federal Power Commission statistics, the private utilities generated 115,077,919,000 kilowatt hours of energy last year—90 per cent of the total. Municipally owned companies and the Federal projects each generated about five per cent of the total.

And that doesn't give the whole picture by a long shot. Writing in Public Utilities Fortnightly, Andrew Barnes, veteran Washington correspondent, points out that the Federal power projects are almost all in geographic areas where manufactures vital to national defense are largely or totally lacking. The principle national defense industries are concentrated in the Northeast and North Central regions—and these regions are served almost 100 per cent by private utilities, along with a small number of municipal systems. To quote Mr. Barnes: "The public power system was laid out virtually without any relation whatever to national defense production."

That being the case, it is reassuring to know that the utilities are cooperating fully with the national defense program—despite the aggressively unfriendly treatment they have long been subjected to by government. Practically every power company in the country is now expanding its plant. Hundreds of millions are being spent. Hundreds of thousands of additional kilowatt hour capacity is being installed. More is planned for the future, as the defense drive gains pace. And it is being done with private dollars—not tax dollars. The private utilities, today as in the past, are doing a mighty job on behalf of American security and American well-being.

Still again, people had been told that the nation could arm itself and still have its present comforts and luxuries.

Now there is official doubt about all these things. Even officialdom is beginning to hope the people will see that like total war, total defense (especially when that includes furnishing Britain's weapons) requires sacrifices.

**COOPERATIVE MARKETING**

Agriculture is forced to make readjustments to cope with the changing world. The agricultural marketing cooperatives, representative organizations of America's progressive farmers, are working to make those readjustments as easy to take as possible.

These cooperatives are helping the farmer expand his domestic markets, now that European markets are largely lost. They are constantly working with other interested groups to obtain for the producer a fairer proportion of the final selling price of what he raises. They have at their command experts in many fields who watch trends, and lay plans for meeting problems as they arise. They act for the farmer in dealing with agencies of government. They maintain departments which help the farmer produce more crops or better crops at a lower overhead cost.

This work goes on day after day, year after year. It is not affected by the changing winds of political farm policy. It does not depend on subsidies and special laws. For the marketing cooperatives are supported by their members, and are owned by their members. They stand on their own feet—and they represent farming on its highest plane of efficiency.

**FEEDING THE STARVING EUROPEANS**

There is no hard-hearted opposition in Washington against sending food and relief to any of the countries that have been wiped out, and their people impoverished by the war. The real difficulty is that there is a fixed conviction in the administration and legislative circles in Washington that it would be impossible to keep food from being captured and used by the Germans, and that they would take it away from countries like the Scandinavians, France, Holland, and others.

In the World War terms were arranged under which American food supplies were distributed to certain countries. There is only one reason why that is impossible at the present time. That one reason is that Hitler controls the European situation and is the World's No. 1 liar.

**HOUSING BOOM**

All the wheels have been oiled in Washington for the government machine that will build new houses throughout the country. Every locality directly connected with the defense program will be provided with new homes that will likely be financed by the government. Banks and building and loan associations, and other concerns, will also be backed in what seems likely to become a home building boom for 1941.

One American chemical company alone buys \$1,500,000 worth of cotton each year from the farmer.

**Washington Snapshots**  
by JAMES PRESTON

TIMES and theme songs change quickly in Washington, sometimes so rapidly that the singers themselves can't keep up. And sometimes, as now, those who sang loudest wish they had chosen another tune.

Up until the last week in November, the President himself in Hyde Park was making complimentary remarks about the speed of the defense program. Then in mid-December emphasis shifted to talk about how defense is lagging, how the nation hasn't been sufficiently "sold" on the necessity for speed, how the week-end production "black-out" should be eliminated.

To those in the know in Washington, the facts were exactly the same in November as in December. The only thing was that the public had been oversold on a few things.

To illustrate, those who made munitions and guns had been so effectively classed in the public mind as "merchants of death" that there weren't any producers of these goods. New plants had to be built.

Again, machines had been built up as destroyers of jobs. The makers of machines had just been coasting along on the little business which people had to give them. Now, though, machines and machine-makers are needed, but they can't just grow into full operation overnight.

Also, government press agents had put out a stream of releases about contracts being granted. Since this followed optimistic talk about 50,000 airplanes and two-ocean navies, the people thought everything was rosy. They were undersold on the fact that there is a lot which must happen between ordering a tank and actually getting it.

Still again, people had been told that the nation could arm itself and still have its present comforts and luxuries.

Now there is official doubt about all these things. Even officialdom is beginning to hope the people will see that like total war, total defense (especially when that includes furnishing Britain's weapons) requires sacrifices.

MORE information therefore will "leak" out about difficulties the defense program must overcome. There will be talk about how the cost of the program must be increased both to "lease" material to Britain and to meet rising wage levels.

Many manufacturers contracted to produce defense goods with the understanding that their employees would work 40 hours a week. There aren't enough trained workers in numerous industries to put on additional shifts. Therefore, present workers must stay on the job more than 40 hours. But, as it is now being made clear, unions insist upon time and a half for all hours over 40 a week. Hence more money must be spent for the same things if they are to be purchased faster.

If night shifts are put on the cost also will rise in many cases. One defense producer who went on a three—instead of a two-shift basis discovered that his "graveyard" night shift was 23 per cent less efficient than the two day shifts.

Another thing which may be made clear is that makers of defense goods aren't going to be war millionaires. The law permits the War Department to give a fee of 7 per cent to those who produce munitions. The average fee allowed so far is less than 5 per cent, and that, of course, is before Uncle Sam takes his taxes out of the 5 per cent.

In one important industry, the average fee above actual costs is only 2 per cent. The story of one producer in this group shows why it is difficult to tell all the facts to the public.

This producer was asked if the government couldn't make a public statement about his patriotism. He raised his hands in horror and refused, saying he didn't want to be painted in public as a munitions maker.

He may go a long way toward saving the country, but the people won't know it. And all because of a jolly theme song with which politicians had a lot of fun.

**HERE IS OUR SIDE**

Getting out this paper is no picnic. If we print jokes, people say we are silly. If we don't, they say we are too serious. If we clip things from other newspapers, we are too lazy to write them ourselves. If we don't, we are too fond of our own stuff. If we don't print contributions, we don't appreciate true genius. If we do print them, the paper is filled with junk. Now, like as not, someone will say we swiped this from some other newspaper. . . . WE DID!

**PLUG THOSE HOLES**



**"AID TO ENGLAND" FERREE CALLS FOR HONEST ELECTIONS**

The phrase of the moment is "Aid to England." I for one, am sick of it. Dr. Gallup says practically all Americans favor "aid to England." Most of our columnists speak learnedly of the "aid" we already are giving Britain. Our President delivers himself of the odd observation that our "aid to England" has reached its peak. (You may be tired of those quotation marks, but so am I.)

Has there ever in the strange history of civilized men been any such colossal, such maddening, such utterly stupid and indefensible hypocrisy as that represented by the phrase "Aid to England"?

In heaven's high name, how have we aided England? When? Whose sacrifice produced the aid?

We have sold England an indeterminate number of military airplanes. She has paid cash. She has come and got them.

We have sold England, I understand, some old rifles and various shipments of ammunition. She paid cash. She came and got them.

We have sold England, it is hinted, some tanks, especially some tanks we wanted tested on desert battlefields.

We have sold England grain and sugar, iron and cotton, shoes and ships and sealing wax.

England must (under our law) pay cash. England must (under our helpful law) come and get them.

Finally, in a moment of benign generosity, we traded England some rotting destroyers for some air naval bases so valuable to our defense that even Mr. Churchill had difficulty justifying the deal to his Parliament.

We are going (as part of our magnificent program of "aid to England") to sell her more and more planes, if our factories will just decide to produce them fast enough.

We are going to sell England practically anything she wants—if we don't want it first—and we are going to let her use our own American ports to load her purchases into her own ships.

And Napoleon called England a nation of shopkeepers!

Oh, America, thou valiant, thou strong, Land of the freedom, Eternal foe of cruelty and oppression, defender of men's minds and men's properties—of men's "rights."

What an inspiration we are to the suffering humanity of older, more benighted lands. We are opening our hearts. We are opening our order books. We are ready to sell England several useful items.

Ain't it wonderful? — James S. Pope in The Courier-Journal, Louisville, Ky.

**Wendell Willkie Is Hunting For New Job**

Wendell L. Willkie said in New York a few days ago that he is still "looking for a job—any job for a fellow who likes to argue."

Accompanied by Samuel F. Pryor, Jr., vice chairman of the Republican national committee, and Gene Tunney, who has been appointed a naval lieutenant commander, Willkie left La Guardia field for Hobe Sound, Fla., Saturday, to continue his vacation.

Asked if he considered himself out of politics, Willkie replied: "Didn't the people vote me out in the last election?"

Then he smiled and explained he did not quite mean it that way.

A report issued by the U. S. Census Bureau revealed that consumption of all cotton in American mills in November totaled 744,088 bales, setting a new record for that month.

**Asheboro G. O. P. Leader Offers Some Suggestions To Ralph Gardner of the Young Democrats.**

A. I. Ferree of Asheboro, well known G.O.P. leader in the state, has called upon Ralph W. Gardner, president of the Young Democrats and legislator-elect from Cleveland county, in a public statement, to promote a "feeling for better and more honest election laws" through Gardner's proposed Democratic clubs in high schools and colleges of the state.

"I fully appreciate the enthusiasm of this young politician," Ferree's statement begins, "and trust that he will, in organizing his new clubs, promote a feeling for better and more honest election laws. I would suggest that he advocate to his new clubs the same election laws for primary and general election. The last legislature abolished the absentee ballot law and markers for primary, but left them on for the general election.

"The promoter for this two-election law system stated that the Democratic party in western North Carolina needed a little lee-way and prevailed upon the legislature to leave the absentee ballot law and marker system for the general election. The same legislature also failed to make provision for paying the markers and thereby left it up to the politicians and candidates to pay them for their work on election day.

"Mr. Gardner should also prevail upon his clubs to change the methods and manner in which election officials are appointed. Under our present system the Democratic party appoints all the election officials and gives their party about two-thirds majority in each precinct. This is wholly unfair and I know of no other organization in the state that authorizes such an unfair system where contests are held.

"Mr. Gardner might also advise his newly-organized clubs to advocate that the next legislature pass a law placing the registration books back at the county courthouse with all other county records instead of leaving them in the hands of the chairman of the board of elections."

**Willie Benson Killed When Struck By Car**

**Elevation Township Man Killed Instantly When Struck By Car Driven By Robert Godwin.**

Christmas Eve night, about 7:30, Willie Benson, 58-year-old Elevation township farmer, met instant death on the Benson-Garner highway just west of the town of Benson when struck by a car driven by a man by the name of Robert Godwin.

Benson is reported to have been walking on the left side of the road going from the town of Benson, when the Godwin car approached him going in the direction of the town of Benson.

Sheriff Kirby Rose and Deputy Monroe Parker investigated the tragedy for Coroner E. N. Booker and decided that no blame should be attached to Godwin, who told them that he was blinded by the headlights of another car and did not see Benson until it was too late to avoid striking him.

**PROFITABLE**

The 300 White Leghorn hens owned by J. M. Stephenson, Willow Springs, Route 1, converted \$46.90 spent for feed into an income of \$99.62 from eggs during the past month for a net profit of \$52.72.