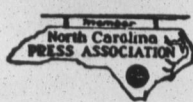


PERSON COUNTY TIMES



A PAPER FOR ALL THE PEOPLE

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Published Every Thursday and Sunday. Entered As Second Class Matter At The Postoffice At Roxboro, N. C., Under The Act Of March 3rd., 1879.

—SUBSCRIPTION RATES—

One Year	\$1.50
Six Months	.75
Three Months	.50

National Advertising Representative



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News from our correspondents should reach this office not later than Tuesday to insure publication for Thursday edition and Thursday P. M. for Sunday edition.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 1943

Our Honor, And His.....

Fifth District Representative John H. Folger is not a Washington noise-maker, but it is to his credit and to the honor of the district which he represents, including Person, that he speaks out forcibly, when speaking out is in order. We refer, of course, to his pronounced stand (and over a long period of time) in opposition to the fulminations of one Martin Dies, who has by his un-American hypocrisy made the name of his Committee as odious as his own.

For seeing through Dies, for not being deceived by claptrap, the gentleman from Mount Airy deserves a hand, a big one. Folger, for months, stood alone in opposition, although he today has the satisfaction of knowing that majority of his Tar Heel colleagues now share his opinions on the publicity seeking, rabble-rousing Texan, whose latest investigation, concerned with what he calls "crack-pot bureaucrats", is apparently, and appropriately, headed for a showdown investigation in reverse by a subcommittee of the House Appropriations committee.

North Carolina, troubled with at least one statesman whose antics are akin to the showoff, cannot too proudly point the finger of scorn at Martin Dies, but it can be proud that Representative Folger has a sense of decency and perspective and that he is not fooled, any more than is Representative Will Rogers, of California.

The Dies Committee was an evidence of bad taste in peace times. It is worse than that today, when the Congress must need all its moral strength for the real lions of war that are in the way and at the gates. The Montgomery Advertiser, quoted elsewhere on this page, puts Dies in his place, but the Person Times is pleased to point out that Folger, too, has had his share in the putting. And he is not through yet.

A Folger mad, is a fighting man, Mount Airy style.

The Poor South.....

I

Promise of dawn of a new era of industrial and financial independence in the postwar South, postwar in this instance being after World War II, is indicated in the report this week filed by the House Committee on Small Business, headed by Representative Patman, Texas Democrat.

Patman's report, while it is hopeful of future expansion, enumerates industrial, manufacturing and freight rate deficiencies known to and too long tolerated by Southerners.

II

Under title, "The South's Handicaps", Josephus Daniels has this to say:

"The marked progress of the South has been achieved under severe handicaps. The War of the Sixties wiped out the savings of a century. Reconstruction hampered restoration. And then when hopes returned we found that all the railroads and most of the industries in the South were owned by capitalists in other sections and we have suffered from discrimination by tariff, by freight rates, by high rates of interest and other handicaps.

"It remained for Thurman Arnold, Assistant Attorney General, to appreciate what President Roosevelt said when he became Chief Executive in 1933: "The South is Economic Problem No. 1." Mr. Arnold diagnosed the true condition when he recently said:

"The industrial East has been the Mother Country. The South and West have been colonies. The colonies have furnished the Mother Country with raw material. The Mother Country has been exploiting the colonies by selling them manufactured necessities at artificially controlled prices.

"The industrial East has been the principal source of both capital and organization to develop the South and West. Under such conditions, it has been natural enough that the South and West have been developed in the way which would contribute the most to the domination of the industrial East. Wherever it has interfered with Eastern industrial domination, the competitive energy of the South and West has been stifled. Local independent capital in the South and West has been gradually disappearing. Local independent enter-

prises has been under a constant handicap."

"Pride—some of it false—has prevented the South from admitting what Mr. Arnold's diagnosis shows. Tariff, taxation and freight rates have discriminated against the South and still do to an extent.

"To this day most of the transportation, communication, power, light and big industries are owned outside the South and too heavy a burden is laid on the consumers. Most of the Southern officers of these corporations hold a relative position as governors of colonies and are forced to follow directions from the real rulers.

"In spite of the burdens, the story of the recuperation of the South has been a marvel of overcoming to a large extent its handicaps. The next generation should witness another emancipation—that of not being industrially beholden to those who take too much of the cream by their investments in the South."

III

Looking at the report of the Patman report — and reading the Daniels comment, with its brilliant introduction of Thurman Arnold as witness, we are at first moved to say, "Amen, let the new day come."

And we do say it with all political, sectional and religious fervor at our command, but all the same we are heathen enough to add that we wish to God that the South could forget its bedridden poverty and fight back. The "House of Connolly" attitude has been played with, down here, and in Washington, long enough, and a pose that was fashionable in 1900, is now socially, morally and economically passe.

The War between the States dog-collar is a lifeless excuse today, and as cold as the stone veteran on Person's court house lawn. We do wrong to wait for the next generation. The job is our own — now.

The Watermelon And The Cantaloupe.....

Because they get so little, in proportion to professional preparation and time given and money spent, North Carolina's public school teachers are this year watching the State Legislature with cat-like eyes. They want and should have salary increases. Majority of them, likewise, favor the War Bonus plan, apparently, and the nine months term — now and not later, although some few are realistic enough to agree with the Lieutenant Governor.

In other words, it appears that Tar Heel teachers are this year out for all they can get. They have as a class been accused of having a well organized lobby, one of the best and the most powerful, but if they appear to be in a grasping humor and not above stooping to the level of lobbying, it is because they have learned the Grecian quality of Legislative gifts. An appropriation that at first looks as large and as plump as an August watermelon frequently shrinks under legislative examination to the size of a wrinkled, last on the vine cantaloupe.

And the closer the legislature comes to its close, the greater the shrinkage in the size of cantaloupe. The teachers, in fact, unless they are wary, may find themselves teaching a nine month term, with little or no increase in salary. If they thought only of themselves they might do well to concentrate on the salary issues and let the nine month business go hang, but fortunately they are not that way.

We could say that teachers are arrogant, as some of them are. We could say that some of them strain at the gnat of perfection and swallow the camel of functional illiteracy, without ever knowing that education comes from life as well as books. We could say some teachers are lazy . . . but we honestly hope their cantaloupe turns out to be a big, green watermelon, as it appears it will.

WITH OTHER EDITORS

No Division Of Effort.....

News And Observer

There are still members of Congress who wish to repeat the tragedy that made Lincoln almost turn gray in the War of the Sixties. They wish a Congressional committee to conduct the war. If they will read the story of the hindrance such a board was in Washington in 1863-65, they will see that it will retard the successful conduct of the war. With their preponderance of men munitions and money, the surprise was that the Confederacy could carry on for four years. The bungling at Washington helped Lee. If Congress should try to take a like course now and assume the duties of the Commander-in-Chief it would be a blunder beyond repair.

Victory depends on united forces and direction without debate. Congress has important duties. It should not abdicate its functions or try to take over the duties of the Commander-in-Chief.

Pen Portrait Of Dies.....

Montgomery Advertiser

It is very disappointing to read that Martin Dies was applauded repeatedly on both sides of the chamber Monday during his latest stirring of class hatreds in this nation where unity is now so essential.

It is depressing that out of the entire membership of this great legislative body, only one—the youngest and newest member, the son of a nationally beloved man, Representative Will Rogers of California — had the courage to disagree publicly with the Texas demagogue, to denounce "the sentiments expressed, the flamboyant manner of expression used and the use of this great forum as means of what we in Hollywood would call personal publicity." (There is another — John H. Folger of North Carolina.)

Dies is our most dangerous public demagogue because

in time of war he strives to array class against class, group against group, and the people against their government. He is a libeler who has been proved a bearer of false witness over and over. He is a sycophantic toe-kisser of Tories. He is a labor baiter whose spoutings delight the ears of Fascists. He is a distortionist who out of the hundreds of thousands of people on the government payrolls picks out one man who once wrote a book about nudists and uses him in an effort to discredit and ridicule the whole American government personnel. He is a toady toward privileged interests who blatantly calls everyone who disagrees with him a Communist.

"Town And Farm In Wartime"

"You And The War"

A 32-page pamphlet to help civilians get into war service and protective programs of their communities, entitled "You And The War" is now available. Indexing more than 100 occupations and skills needed by Civilian Defense organizations, "You and the War" can be obtained from local defense councils and regional offices of OCD.

Convict Gouging Landlords

One of the rich leaders among rent gouging landlords in the Vallejo, Calif., area has been convicted in a criminal action and fined \$400. Sixty-nine landlords have been forced to refund illegally collected rents to 154 tenants, to a total of more than \$5,000, and orders have been issued by OPA which will reduce the rents in the Vallejo area more than 10,000 a month. The actions grew out of complaints by Navy men who were forced to pay as high as \$65 for two small rooms in an auto court, and in one case \$420 a month for one room and meals for an officer, his wife, and one child.

Advise Completing Education

"It is advisable", said a recent statement of the War Manpower Commission, "that young people

have the fullest possible opportunity consistent with the war effort to complete their education. Those with special aptitudes and capacity for further training should continue their education in order to develop their maximum abilities applicable to war and post-war needs." Youths under 18 can best help the war effort by continuing in school the WMC said. Many of them will have to replace persons who have gone into war work, but youths should enter the labor force only with adequate safeguards for their health

and welfare, present and future. Stop Rise In Clothing Prices

It is evident that the rise in clothing prices was effectively stopped by the General Maximum Price Regulation. Prices of all kinds of clothing rose 25.8 percent between spring of 1941 and May, 1942. Prices were then established as of March, which not only halted price rises, but actually lowered some prices. At the end of Dec. 1942, clothing prices averaged .2 percent lower than prices before the G. M. P. R. went into effect.

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