

LOOKING AT WASHINGTON

By Hugo S. Sims, Washington Correspondent

Minority Parties Dwindle
 In 1940 four minority groups or parties were on the tickets in a number of states—the Socialists in 20 states, the Prohibitionists in 27, the Communists in 23, and the Socialist-Laborites in 14.

This year according to Dewey L. Fleming, the "passing of minority parties and their candidates from the ballots may be among the distinguishing features of the wartime presidential election."

The Communist Party has taken itself out of the political picture. Minnesota's Farmer-Labor Party appears ready to give up the ghost. The Socialists are said to be having difficulties in qualifying for a place on state tickets.

The Prohibition Party is not regarded as the champion of economic and political views, being interested almost exclusively in the liquor question.

Open Discussion Needed To Inform Our Citizens

"Behind closed doors," says the Associated Press, the government is working on a \$5,000,000,000 stockpile of raw materials to carry us through three years of "any third world war."

This means that responsible officials cognizant of the shortages that threatened us when Japan moved into the Far East, are anxious to avoid a repetition of the peril.

There is little danger that those now directing the nation in warfare will forget the present lesson. There is the probability that the people of this country will repeat in the future their thinking of the past and conclude that war is impossible.

The matter of a strategic reserve is not for discussion behind closed doors. It should be debated in the open, with the purpose of educating every American as to the dependence of this country upon imports for many essential things, not only in time of war but in years of peace.

A start can be made if the nation will set aside its tremendous surplus of materials and equipment when the war ends. This will eliminate dumping but we must not overlook the possibility that business men will be anxious for the big profits that can be made out of liquidating the war effort.

Wallace Criticizes Business Flays "Hard-Headed" Type
 In a speech delivered at Seattle, Washington, Vice-President Wallace

advised the American people to keep "the hard-headed businessman" from leading the world astray after this war.

The Vice-President is against "those who believe that Wall Street comes first and the country second and are willing to go to any length to keep Wall Street safely on top of the country."

In a previous speech, delivered at Los Angeles, the Vice-President said that this class of business men "will fight with unrelenting hatred through the press, radio, demagogue and lobbyist, every national and state government which puts human rights above property rights."

Mr. Wallace has heard the wide-spread propaganda about free enterprise. He points out that, under this slogan, certain business leaders mean "freedom for freebooters—the privilege of charging monopoly prices without government interference, the privilege of putting competitors out of business by unfair competition, the privilege of buying up patents to keep them out of use, the privilege of setting up Pittsburgh-plus price fixing schemes, the privilege of unloading stocks and bonds on the public through insiders, who know their way in and out, up and down and sideways."

While the Vice-President spoke in general terms, defining what the economic pirates mean by "free enterprise, every charge that he made can be substantiated in the record established in this country between the two World Wars.

The Vice-President, while denouncing a certain type of business man, praises other business men who are interested in serving humanity. He recognizes the necessity of "a reasonable profit if this private enterprise economy of ours is to survive."

Referring to the small business man, who is just as much interested in genuine free enterprise as big business men, the Vice-President suggested that the phrase means something different.

"To the little business man," he said, free enterprises "means the opportunity to compete without fear of monopoly controls of any kind." He "wants a fair chance to compete in a growing market with fair access to raw materials, capital and technical research."

These desires, said Mr. Wallace, "are not unreasonable but they will require some protection by the Gov-

ernment," which will have to "write the rules" in a way that will not shut out the small business man from fair opportunities.

Jones On Post-War Surpluses To Help Small Business Men

Secretary of Commerce Jesse Jones speaks to the point when he says that, with the war not yet won, there is too much post-war talk.

Appearing before a House Committee, the Texan said that it was up to Congress to determine how the nation would dispose of its surpluses after the war, but he observed that the problem of getting rid of plants and materials "is almost as big as the war itself."

The Cabinet member expressed the opinion that the smaller business man, "the backbone of this country," should have preferential treatment in obtaining Government surplus stocks after the war. This is an interesting conclusion but there seem to be many difficulties connected with any Government effort to help smaller business men.

While it is highly proper for Government officials to give serious consideration to the plight of the small business man, it is nevertheless apparent that the solution of his problems must come largely through his own efforts.

The Government can best help small business men by removing barriers placed in the way of their growth. This includes, of course, all preferential treatment of large concerns, strict enforcement of statutes against monopoly and rigid investigations of complaints alleging "unfair competition."

It is also necessary, if small business men are to survive, that adequate credit be made available upon terms which do make it possible for small concerns to meet the competition of larger companies.

We do not underwrite any plan that seeks governmental subsidies for small business men but we realize the necessity for strict enforcement of regulations designed to give equal opportunity to all in the business.

In fact, the only justification for the complaint of small business men is that they are up against unfair competition. They have a right to object to practices which give an edge to larger companies.

When conditions are created, however, that permit full and free competition, the small business man will have to survive on the merits of his service. He has no right to expect the Government to extend special favors to him.

Would Sound Funny!

The sentiment in Congress for the simplification of income tax returns is about one year behind time.

The solons should have thought of the results when they were busy passing the simplified, pay-as-you-go plan last year, with its hokum about forgiving a year's taxes.

We think it would be a good idea if Congressmen, who supported the Ruml plan, were required to repeat their remarks of last year. They would look as silly as they sound, in the light of the mess that now confronts the taxpayers of the nation.

Nelson And Wilson Join To Deny Rumors of Friction

It is somewhat symptomatic of conditions in the United States that Donald M. Nelson, chairman of the War Production Board, and Charles E. Wilson, Executive Vice-Chairman, find it necessary to deny, in a joint interview, that there is friction between them or that they are engaged in rival maneuvers to control the agency in the reconversion era.

Mr. Nelson, taking cognizance of recent rumors in the press and on the radio, said that such reports are unfounded and a detriment to the war production program.

He adds that he and Mr. Wilson have a complete understanding of their separate functions, that they are serving at a considerable personal sacrifice, and that neither is "personally ambitious to 'boss' the post-war industrial reconversion."

There is more to the matter than the positive action taken by these two executives to prevent the members of their organization from becoming divided into rival "Wilson" and "Nelson" camps. It relates to the source of the rumors that have been spread in the press and on the radio, and to identity of the rumor-mongers.

While the two executives mentioned no names, there should be some method of checking up and ascertaining the identity of writers and commentators who have played up the "war" between them. Moreover, there should be some agency, preferably operated by the press and the radio, to investigate the activity of the rumor-mongers, with power to discipline those guilty of intentionally giving publicity to unverified and untruthful reports.

Mr. Nelson says that "there are many interests that would like to see a schism created between the two top men in W.P.B." It might be interesting to ascertain the identity of the "interests" in order to see if they instigated the propaganda which Mr. Nelson attempts to refute.

No Difference

Gal—Would you come to my aid in distress?

Gob—My dear, it wouldn't make any difference to me what you were wearing.

Topdress Small Grains Early

Small grains in most sections of North Carolina should be topdressed between February 1 and March 15 for best yields, reports W. H. Rankin, agronomist of the Agricultural Experiment Station at State College.

"Tests have repeatedly shown that late applications of top-dressing after April 1 result in lower yields than if the same applications had been earlier," says Rankin. "Last year early top-dressings with 16 pounds of nitrogen per acre gave an extra 8 bushels of wheat, for example, while late top-dressings gave only 3 bushels."

There should be ample nitrogen materials for top-dressing small grains this year according to the agronomist. Nitrate of soda, calnitro and ammonium nitrate will be available in most areas and one may be substituted for another. To give 16 pounds of nitrogen, 100 pounds of nitrate of soda, 80 pounds of calnitro, or 50 pounds of ammonium nitrate can be used.

As to amounts of nitrogen per acre, Rankin recommends 16 to 32 pounds. He also recommends extra potash along with the nitrogen where heavy crops of legume hay have been removed.

He reports that the condition of small grains is spotted and that

where stands are poor, the crop can be reseeded by running the drill across the rows. In such cases the crop will have to be used for hay rather than for grain.

Where there is a complete loss of stand and extra feed supplies are sorely needed, he recommends 3 bushels of Fulgrain or Fulghum oats per acre, put in with a drill, and 300 pounds of fertilizer per acre where no fertilizer was used in the fall.

Cover Crops Give Nitrogen For Cotton

A good stand of legume winter cover crops will furnish a large part of the nitrogen necessary for cotton, report agronomy research men of the N. C. Agricultural Experiment Station at State College.

Austrian winter peas, hairy vetch, and crimson clover were compared with no cover crops at the Upper Coastal Plain Experiment Station. Cotton following the cover crops was given two different fertilizer treatments: 600 pounds of 0-8-8 fertilizer per acre, and a like amount of 3-8-8 fertilizer.

Where there were no cover crops, the cotton received 600 pounds of 0-8-8, a 3-8-8, and a 6-8-8 fertilizer per acre.

In the cotton-corn rotation, the cotton—following the Austrian winter peas and receiving the 0-8-8 fertilizer—yielded the same as the cot-

ton after no cover crop and fertilized with the 6-8-8 mixture.

After hairy vetch, with the 0-8-9 fertilizer, the cotton yielded more than the cotton after no cover crop and with a 3-8-8 fertilizer.

In the cotton-peanut rotation, cotton after each of the three legumes and fertilized with 0-8-8 fertilizer, yielded higher than the cotton following no cover crop with the same fertilization.

In order to get a good stand of winter legumes, they must be planted early in the fall so as to get set for the winter and be able to make a quick growth in the spring in time for turning under.

These tests at the Upper Coastal Plain Experiment Station indicate that cover crops can be made to furnish a large part of the nitrogen requirements of cotton.

Worn On Festive Occasions
 Clerk—Will one collar be enough, madam?
 Old Woman (indignant) — Well, such foolishness. Do you think I've got more than one husband?

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