

LOOKING AT WASHINGTON

By HUGO S. SIMS, Washington Correspondent

Says Farm Youth Are Ready to Fight for the Nation

The vote of the House of Representatives, authorizing a joint Congressional Committee to determine who is responsible for the "wholesale" induction of essential farmers and farm workers in the armed forces, indicates that some Congressmen have not yet learned about Adolf Hitler and Emperor Hirohito. While it is essential for the nation to permit farmers to produce the food, feed and fiber that we need, it does not follow that young men, of sound physical being and in good health, should be exempt from military service. We have no idea that anything like a majority of the farmers of this country approve such a proposal.

The farmers of the nation constitute at least one-fourth of the population and probably more than one-fourth of the men of military age reside on American farms. To say that every one of these young men is essential to farming operations is obviously absurd and it is almost as ridiculous for anyone to propose that more than one-fourth of the young men of the nation are entitled to exemption.

Representative Graham A. Barden of North Carolina voted for the motion, but he explained that he is concerned over the inequality in the percentage of farmers drafted from the various states. Mr. Barden says that in North and South Dakota farm exemptions run as high as 23 per cent while in North Carolina it is only one per cent.

We think Mr. Barden expresses the viewpoint of loyal American agriculturists when he says that rural people possess the highest degree of patriotism, that they are not "kicking," and they can take the shortages in production better than the rest of the country.

The efforts of Congressmen to relieve various classes from the obli-

gation of bearing arms in defense of their country illustrates one of the great defects of a democracy. Nearly every American wants the war pushed to a victorious conclusion but there are some, when it comes to them or their sons, who are willing to take advantage of every technicality and employ every device possible to secure exemption.

Fortunately, for the nation, the percentage is not as high as the public is sometimes led to believe by the broadcasts and headlines. In fact, we have no idea that the nation will be compelled to surrender to its foes, even if it had to depend solely upon the young men off its farms to fight its battles.

Aluminum Company Adjudged Monopoly By the Court

A special three-man Federal Court, sitting under extraordinary legislation by Congress, has decided that the Aluminum Company of America and its subsidiaries are monopolizing interstate and foreign commerce in violation of the Sherman Anti-Trust law.

The opinion says that the company "to monopolize the market" kept "complete and exclusive hold upon the market" and that the agreement of a Canadian subsidiary with a number of foreign firms in 1936 violated the "restraint of trade" section of the Anti-Trust Act.

While it is impossible for the average American to keep up with the testimony and legal decisions relating to the prevalence of monopolies in the United States, the question is one of great importance. Monopolies and agreements in restraint of trade tend to prevent the competition which the promoters of private initiative insist is the cause of our industrial progress.

While we would like to see individuals free to engage in business without restrictions of any kind, such a condition is impossible in the present era. The only question that arises is whether the control of business shall be maintained by super-corporations or by the government.

Facing such an issue, we have no hesitation whatever in preferring the government, which, in the final analysis, will be responsive to the will of the people.

Vinson States His Aims; Favors Full Employment

Fred M. Vinson, who succeeded Jesse Jones as Federal Loan Administrator, says that he will make every effort to see that "the resources of our lending agencies are made available to assist American business in the task of providing full employment and attaining the President's goal of 60,000,000 jobs."

The new loan administrator was discussing the post-war period and used the 60,000,000-job figure only as a statement of a goal. He favors a higher national income than we ever had in peacetime, with "higher prices for agriculture, higher wages for workers and profits for business."

We thoroughly approve the general principles outlined by Mr. Vinson, whose appointment as Federal Loan Administrator hardly raised a ripple on the political sea. His objectives, however, are practically identical with

those espoused by Secretary of Commerce Wallace.

Mr. Vinson quite properly stressed the fact that he intends to follow the law closely and take his policies from Congress. This is the proper attitude for an administrative official and, in fact, is the attitude adopted by the vast majority of the men who compose the executive department of our government.

Why Do Food Prices Soar Between Farms And Cities?

The late Hampton P. Fulmer, who was chairman of the House Committee on Agriculture, instigated an investigation to discover why the consumer pays several times as much for food as the farmers receive for producing it.

The idea of the Congressman is being kept alive by his successor, Representative John W. Flannagan, Jr., of Virginia, who points out that last year the Federal Trade Commission, after making a survey in 1936, reported that consumers are paying from three to ten times the price received by farmers.

Mr. Fulmer's idea, as we understand it, was an up-to-date marketing system from rural regions, under a farm cooperative program that would provide facilities for proper grading, storage and other essential services.

Mr. Flannagan points out that every time a handling charge is added to a farm product, after it leaves the farms, the charge comes off the farm price or is added to the consumer's cost. He thinks that an efficient farm marketing system would bring the farmer and the consumer closer together and says that both groups should be rescued from the existing system.

We have no doubt of the fact that excessive handling of farm products has added unnecessary increases to the cost of food and we suspect that what the farmer receives for most of his food crops is adversely affected by close cooperation between those who buy them, handle them and pass them along to the public.

We hope the investigation will be pushed and that Mr. Flannagan will take every precaution to prevent any undue pressure being applied to the inquiry. Certainly, without the investigation no man can definitely assert that farmers and consumers are being taken to ride, but there are signs that such a shakedown is under way.

Of course, growers of food crops should not get the idea that all the money added to the price paid by the consumer represents profits. There are distinct services rendered by some middlemen and if they were not functioning the grower would have to render the service and charge for it. An investigation, intelligently conducted, will give us the facts, which is the first step in securing the remedy.

World Peace Plan's Fate May Depend Upon Battle to Reduce Tariff Walls

The acid test of the nation's willingness to cooperate with the world in an effort to solve the tremendous problems that will confront us after the war will come upon the bill extending the Hull Reciprocal Trade Agreements Act for another three years.

The Administration has asked for greater flexibility in tariff negotiations, including tariff cuts 50 per cent below present levels, or about 75 per cent below Smoot-Hawley levels. The proposal has been assailed as a step toward free trade and there are indications that the two major parties will line up for a bitter fight on the issue.

The effort at world cooperation has met with more encouragement on the political side, with present signs tending to the conclusion that the Dumbarton Oaks agreement will be ratified and that the Bretton Woods agreement, despite fierce criticism, will successfully run the gauntlet.

When the tariff issue is touched, however, as it must be in any effort to promote a larger volume of international trade, protected interests, which produce powerful propaganda, let out a howl. Most of the lamentations revolve around the ill effects that reductions will have upon the farmer and the wage-earner but the real concern is the profits of protected industries.

We are quite certain that the fight will be furious and the outcome dubious unless consumers and the general public give vigorous support to the effort to make a definite contribution to the solution of the world's economic problems. The hodge-podge of tariff walls, quotas, cartel agreements, exchange regulations and other trade barriers must be greatly reduced if the peoples of the earth are to have a chance to cooperate peacefully in self-development.

There will be exaggerated statements, such as that attributed to Representative Harold Knutson, Republican spokesman on the House Ways and Means committee, who declares that extension of the reciprocal trade act, with broad authority to negotiate reduced tariff rates, constitutes "as great a threat to the American way of life as Jap and German armies combined."

The Minnesota Congressman says it would be the "death warrant of hundreds of businesses" and throw "tens of thousands of workers out of employment." He even thinks that the unemployment problem "might wreck the republic." His words will be re-echoed by protected industry which will consider the foundations of the nation eternally destroyed if

tariff-created monopoly is endangered.

We are quite conscious of the divided opinion which exists in the nation on this question which has been a partisan, political and economic issue for generations. Nevertheless, there must be developed a way to promote the swapping of goods between peoples, even if they reside in different countries, and to eliminate selfish advantages artificially maintained.

Negro Schools Hold Contest On March 19

Perquimans County's Negro schools held their third annual Elementary Musical and Oratorical contest at Ellis Temple Baptist Church on March 19, and raised a total of \$1,007.45 through the Victory Queen contest.

Schools participating in the contest were Poole's Grove, Galatia, Fork Bridge, Nicanor, Winfall, Oak Hill, Willow Branch, Cedar Hill, Bay Branch and Chinquapin.

Winners in the oratorical contest were Sadie Ellis of Winfall, James Modlin of Cedar Hill and Catherine Spellman of Poole's Grove.

The musical contest winners were Sadie Ellis of Winfall, Marie Turner of Galatia and Elvora White of Nicanor.

Music was also rendered by the octette of the Perquimans Training School under the direction of L. Tillet.

BRIDGE PARTY

Mrs. H. C. Sullivan was hostess at a bridge party Friday evening in honor of Mrs. Charles Payne, a recent bride. Those playing were Mesdames Charles Payne, honoree,

Waltr Oakie, W. H. Hardcastle, S. P. Jessup, Bob Applewhite, R. S. Monds, Jr., Marion Riddick, Willis Jessup, J. P. Perry, Jr., Walter Edwards, Silas Wheelbee, Jack Brinn, C. A. Davenport, Misses Frances Maness, Mary Gaither and Miss Esther Evans. High score prize was awarded Mrs. Oakie and second high went to Mrs. Riddick, and Mrs. Payne was presented a lovely gift. A salad course was served by the hostess.

BRIDGE PARTY

Mrs. V. N. Darden entertained at a bridge party Friday evening at her home on Front Street. Those playing were Mesdames W. G. Wright, B. G. Koonce, R. M. Riddick, T. L. Jessup, H. C. Stokes, C. M. Williford, J. G. Roberson and Miss Jessie McMullan. High score prize for the club was awarded Mrs. Koonce and Mrs. Jessup received high prize for the visitors. A salad course was served.

Disguised

Pedestrian (to boy leading a skinny mongrel pup)—"What kind of a dog is that, my boy?"
Boy—"This is a police dog."
Pedestrian—"That doesn't look like a police dog."
Boy—"Nope, it's in the Secret Service."

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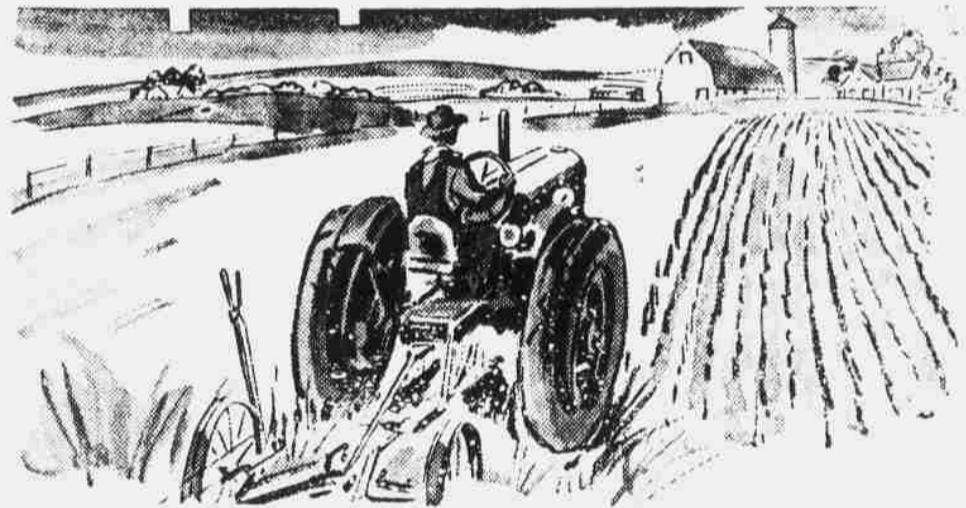
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Dorothy McGuire, James Dunn, Joan Blondell, Peggy Ann Garner, Ted Donaldson and Lloyd Nolan in "A TREE GROWS IN BROOKLYN"
News - Dinner Cartoon Bugga/Bunny Cartoon Shows 3:30, 6:10 and 8:50 Features 4, 6:40 and 9:20

Saturday, March 31—
Allan Lane and Linda Sterling in "THE TOPEKA TERROR"
'Manhunt of Mystery Island' No. 11 Comedy

Sunday, April 1—
Van Johnson, Marilyn Maxwell and Lionel Barrymore in "BETWEEN TWO WOMEN"
Latest March of Time

Monday-Tuesday, April 2-3—
Faye Emerson, Helmut Dantine, Raymond Massey, Andrea King, Peter Lorre, Alan Hale and George Coulouris in "HOTEL BERLIN"
Latest News

Wednesday, April 4—
Joan Davis and Leon Errol in "SHE GETS HER MAN"
"Black Arrow" No. 10 Community Sing - Cartoon

Thursday-Friday, April 5-6—
Roddy McDowall and Preston Foster in "THUNDERHEAD, SON OF FLICKA"

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