

## LOOKING AT WASHINGTON

By HUGO S. SIMS, Washington Correspondent

### TRUMAN CO. REJECTS STEELWORKERS' COMPROMISE

The President of the United States points out that a steel strike will affect every major industry, hamper the conversion effort and stall attempts to establish a sound economy and that the repercussions will be felt all over the country and for a long time to come.

Mr. Truman, in his statement, points out that the United States Steel Corporation refused to accept the compromise proposed by him although it had been accepted by the officers of the United Steel Workers of America. Here are the facts as released by the President:

The workers originally asked for an increase of twenty-five cents per hour and the company offered twelve and one-half cents. Subsequently, the workers came down to nineteen and one-half cents per hour and the steel company moved up to fifteen cents per hour. Thereafter, no progress was made. The President suggested eight

teen and one-half cents per hour increase as "fair."

Benjamin S. Fatriess, President of the United States Steel Corporation, maintains that since January, 1941, the average straight-time hourly pay, without overtime, of the steel workers increased more than the thirty-three per cent increase in the cost of living during that period. He says that under the fifteen cent increase, the average weekly take-home pay for a forty-hour week would be \$51.60, without overtime, and that this is only \$4.64 less than average weekly earnings, including overtime, of the last full year of 1944.

Phillip Murray, head of the Steel Workers Union, discussing wages says that in April 1945, average weekly earnings of steel workers were \$56.32, that average hourly earnings in October, 1945, were \$1.087 and that on a forty-hour week, earnings would be only \$43.48. This, he maintains, shows a slash, since April, 1945, of \$12.84.

We are not able to reconcile the

figures cited by the disputants in this tremendous labor struggle. There is no way for an average American, depending upon the statements of those in the controversy, to be convinced of the fairness or accuracy of either the corporation or the workers. There will be a general tendency, however, to accept the conclusions of the President, in regard to a fair increase in hourly rates, and, consequently, a widespread disposition to fix the blame for the strike upon the United States Steel Corporation.

In this connection, the public should not overlook the statement of Mr. Murray that American industry, "fattened with war profits" has "been guaranteed a high level of profits through special tax rebates under laws written at their behest." To what extent the tax rebate will replace operating profits only an expert can tell, but the existence of the special provision for corporations may have some bearing upon the attitude that they take in connection with labor disputes.

We are not sure, and we do not mean to imply, that organized labor is not without some responsibility in connection with the epidemic of strikes that now threatens our national economy and peace-time production. Nevertheless, the leaders of big business organizations must bear considerable blame for the present deplorable situation, especially when the Government's recommendation, accepted by labor leaders, is flatly rejected by corporate executives.

### WAR ENDS SHIPPING POOL AND CREATES SOME PROBLEMS

During the war, the Allied maritime nations found it advisable to pool their shipping in order to assure delivery of armies, food and munitions to the battlefronts of the world.

Now that the war is over, the pool arrangement of the sixteen allies and friendly nations will be terminated. This will create problems in connection with cargoes for the United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration and for nations which have no available ships, such as Belgium and France.

The termination of the agreement will also create problems for the five nations with surplus ships. These are the United States, Great Britain, Norway, Sweden and The Netherlands. They must arrange to divide "common tasks" and also take positive steps to permit efficient utilization of ships in commercial runs.

An example of the regulations that must be revised comes to mind in connection with British economic and currency restrictions that will close the sterling areas to American ships, including the United Kingdom itself, the Middle East, the Persian Gulf, South Africa and Australia. On the other hand, British ships bound from South Africa, India and points in the Pacific and working to and from South America, have not been able to bring cargoes into the United States.

The shipping industry of this country is vitally interested in the arrangements to be made. It hopes that the "bold and daring" merchant fleet, envisioned by the late President Roosevelt, will become a fact. It should interest the American people who have an interest in the welfare of this country, which depends, in part, at least upon an adequate merchant marine.

The American people should also be interested in proposals designed to open the seas to the commerce of the world. This means that ways must be devised to permit the ships of all nations to ply the oceans. There must be an end, if possible, to artificial barriers which prohibit the efficient operation of the merchant ships of the world.

### NIMITZ PLANS PUBLICITY FOR THE "SECRET" SERVICE

Fleet Admiral Chester W. Nimitz, now Chief of Naval Operations, recently arranged a conference with correspondents assigned to the Navy Department and gave the impression that he intends to discuss frankly matters of public interest.

This new policy, if consistently followed, will be something of a reversal of the secrecy that was imposed by the war. It will also represent something of a departure by high-ranking Navy officials, who have hitherto taken considerable pride in the fact that the Navy had been the "secret service."

This secrecy has not helped the Navy in its efforts to avoid the Army-Navy merger. In fact, the American public is not yet thoroughly familiar with the great service rendered by the Navy in the war against Japan and Germany. This was due largely to the reticence of the Navy to publicize its achievements.

### FOREIGNERS WANT TO BUY U. S. GOODS AND PRODUCTS

American exports which averaged around \$4,000,000,000 annually before the war, are expected to double in the twelve months starting July 1st and experts on foreign trade are unable to conclude whether the demand from other countries for American goods will be larger.

These experts assert that foreign purchasing power, spendable in the United States, is somewhere around \$40,000,000,000 for the years ahead and believe that the impact of this buying will increase the inflationary factors present in the United States.

Obviously, when foreign nations begin to compete in our markets for American production, they will clash with the purchasing power of millions of Americans. This has been greatly enhanced during the war years as the people of this country have amassed

savings through the purchase of bonds that run into billions of dollars.

Some observers believe that there will be a world-wide battle for American goods on a scale beyond anything experienced in the past. Combined with domestic demand, they contemplate an unprecedented, maybe fantastic, demand for the next three-to-five years. Already they report some industries, such as the manufacturers of textile machinery, swamped with orders and turning away customers with the advice that they come back in about three years.

While the survey that we read seems to be concerned with manufactured goods, there is also the possibility that an increased demand will exist for some farm products. Certainly, if the nations of the world seek the dollar credits necessary for spending in this country, they will use some of their money for the products of our farms.

### PLAN NEW TRADE PACTS TO INCREASE WORLD TRADE

It appears that the United States Government is ready to make a serious effort to promote international trade on a larger scale. Fourteen countries have accepted an invitation to a preliminary conference where an effort will be made to simultaneously negotiate reciprocal trade agreements.

Some years ago, when the reciprocal trade program was initiated, under Secretary of State Cordell Hull, Congress gave the Executive authority to reduce tariffs as much as fifty per cent below existing levels. We made treaties with a number of countries and, in some instances, decreased our tariff rates by that much.

Subsequently, Congress authorized the Executive to go a step farther and reduce tariffs by as much as fifty per cent below the levels of January 1st, 1945. This means, in the case of commodities on which the maximum reductions have been made, that the rates would be cut as much as seventy-five per cent below the Hawley-Smoot level.

Heretofore, when a reciprocal trade agreement was negotiated, the Government was required to give representatives of domestic industries an opportunity to express their views on proposed reductions. These hearings related to reductions with one country but under the most-favored-nations clause, the reductions also became available to other countries which made this concession to us.

Under the new program, an effort will be made to consider the trade of fourteen nations and the United States at the same time. This, it is believed, might permit American representatives to do some more effective work in loosening up the barriers that have hitherto interfered with the flow of international commerce.

## Bronze Star Awarded To J. Kelly White

The Bronze Star medal, for meritorious service in battle has been awarded former Sgt. J. Kelly White of Hertford, according to an announcement received here this week.

White is the husband of Mrs. Sarah C. White of Hertford.

The citation accompanying the medal read: "For meritorious service in connection with military operations against the enemy during the period 14 July 1944 to 8 May 1945 in Europe. Throughout this period Technician White, serving in the capacity of tank mechanic performed his duties in an outstanding meritorious manner, working tirelessly and often with utter disregard for personal safety. Despite enemy small arms, mortar and artillery fire, he went forward on innumerable occasions, repairing and retrieving tanks in the

heat of battle. His superior skill and untiring efforts were undoubtedly the prime factors in maintaining the highly mechanical efficiency of the vehicles of his company. His indomitable spirit, daring determination and zealous devotion to duty reflect great credit upon himself and the armed forces."

## Helps build up resistance against MONTHLY FEMALE PAIN

When taken regularly!

Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound soothes more than relieves monthly pain when due to functional periodic disturbances. It also relieves accompanying weak, tired, nervous, jittery feelings — of such nature. Taken regularly — Pinkham's Compound helps build up resistance against such monthly distress. Pinkham's Compound is worth trying!

## Notice Of Sale

We will, on Saturday, March 2, 1946 at 10:00 a. m., at the home of Mrs. Lizzie M. Howell, deceased, near the George W. Jackson Store, offer for sale to the highest bidder the following items:

### HOUSEHOLD AND KITCHEN FURNITURE

Including

Electric Refrigerator; Electric Radio; Living Room Suite; Bedroom Suites; Stoves . . . and many other items too numerous to mention.

R. G. Jackson  
J. E. Jackson

ADMINISTRATORS

## MONTHLY INSTALLMENT LOANS

YOU CAN BORROW MONEY AT THIS BANK FOR SEASONAL CROP PURPOSES . . . OR FINANCING THE PURCHASES OF

Automobiles - Electric Stoves  
Electric Refrigerators - Taxes  
Doctor's Bills - Hospital Bills  
Vacation Trips and other items

We make Real Estate loans. Loans secured by collateral and endorsement loans.

Before borrowing for any of the above purposes, consult the officers of this bank.

We are glad to be of every service that conservative banking will permit. Loans are made to borrower at minimum costs.

## THE HERTFORD BANKING COMPANY

Member F. D. I. C.

Hertford, N. C.

## ANNOUNCING...

THE OPENING OF

## KEEL'S SHOE REPAIR SHOP

On Grubb Street, opposite the Telephone Office Building.

SKILLED WORKMANSHIP

SATISFACTION GUARANTEED

Mr. Keel is a veteran of World War II, and served as Cobbler Instructor in the Navy, as well as Cobbler aboard ship in the Pacific.

Your Patronage Will Be Appreciated

## Lester T. Keel

Owner and Proprietor

HERTFORD, N. C.

## Notice of Sale

We will, on February 13th, 1946, at 10:00 o'clock a. m. at the home of W. F. Howell, deceased, offer for sale to the highest bidder the following items:

- 3 Mules      1 Horse      2 Farm Wagons
- 1 Cart and Wheels      New Century Cultivators
- 2 Disc Plows      1 Cole Corn Planter
- 1 Peanut Planter      3 Middle Breakers
- 1 F-12 Farmall Tractor      1 Disc Harrow
- 1 Mowing Machine      Peanut Hay

Also many other items and farm implements too numerous to mention.

W. E. HOWELL  
L. G. HOWELL  
Administrators



**"TIS THE FARMER'S CARE  
THAT MAKES THE FIELD BEAR"**

Without Proper Tilling and the RIGHT Fertilizers  
Farm Production Will Drop to a Dangerous Minimum

Every farmer, in this first post-war year, is planning now to raise the biggest crop ever. He realizes the world needs more and more food, and he intends to keep up his record for production to help feed this nation and the world.

More and more farmers, every year, are using SCO-CO Fertilizers to get best results from their crops. They find SCO-CO is made to suit the soil.

Before you buy your fertilizer for this season, see your friendly, neighborly SCO-CO agent for information about the best type of fertilizer for your farm. He is ready to serve you and help you raise a "bumper crop."

**PLACE YOUR ORDER NOW FOR SCO-CO FERTILIZER**

**THE SOUTHERN COTTON OIL CO.**

"Manufacturers of Those Good  
SCO-CO Fertilizers That  
Produce Better Crops"

Phones 2131 and 2141  
HERTFORD, N. C.

