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Give Light and the People Will Find Their Own Way

'Not Nearly Good Enough'

HIGH praise for the home-building industry comes from Morton Bodfish, chairman of the United States Savings and Loan League.

According to Mr. Bodfish, new homes built for American families in 1948 will more than double the number of new families established. His estimates: about 950,000 new homes; about 400,000 new families. The figure on families probably is too low, but let that point pass.

Mr. Bodfish predicts the present volume of production will continue for several years. He says the excess of new homes over new families will be about 500,000 a year, or 3,000,000 in the next six years, "to be applied against the backlog of demand accumulated during the war period."

And this, he says, "will provide for doubled-up families, restore normal vacancy ratios and still provide for the elimination of slum housing."

Mr. Bodfish's statement is typical of many by men who would have the public believe the private home-building industry is doing such a wonderful job that there's no need either for a government housing program or for reforming the industry's wasteful, antiquated practices.

THE BUILDING of 950,000 new homes in 1948 can be considered a good job only by comparison with the bad jobs done in many, many past years.

It's a little better than the all-time record—937,000 new homes away back in 1925. It is much better than the annual average of 300,000 new homes in the 10 depression years, 1930 through 1939.

But, as Gov. Dewey said in New York City last week, "it is not nearly good enough."

That "backlog of demand" which Mr. Bodfish disposes of so casually is far bigger than his statement implies. Gov. Dewey put it this way:

"There are not nearly enough good homes for America's families and the homes we are building cost too much . . . in 1937, two of the nation's leading housing experts estimated that nearly 1,200,000 new homes should have been built every year during the latter part of the 1930's just to keep pace with the demand. They were not built . . .

"Today, therefore, we are up against a gigantic housing deficit . . . As many as a million and a half of our veterans and their families have had to double up with other families or live in rooming houses. Another million and a half of our families have had to do the same."

As to a solution for that problem, Mr. Dewey is not too specific. But at least he doesn't fall for the Bodfish line that there isn't much of a problem and that the home-building industry is solving it in a hurry.

Our Slow-Motion Economies

SECRETARY of Defense Forrestal has directed the three armed forces in nine western states to consolidate several administrative operations as the beginning of a "far-reaching" program for economy and efficiency under the unification act.

The order has been sent to Gen. Mark Clark, head of the Sixth Army, and was in fact the secretary's approval of recommendations made to him by the general after a field study.

Gen. Clark is to be commended for his initiative, and Secretary Forrestal for his prompt approval of the proposals. But must all economy programs take such a round-about course before obvious waste and lost motion can be stopped? We need to slash through the red tape and get going.

Mr. Forrestal's order calls for merger of the three services' public information facilities, the pooling of their recruiting operations, the consolidation of ammunition depots and a single management for such joint facilities. Could not the commanders of the three services in the area have been directed to accomplish such logical consolidations without a lot of back-and-forth correspondence and formalities between the Pentagon and San Francisco headquarters?

AND should not all of this, and more, have been done months ago? The unification act is more than a year old.

We are informed that if the above-mentioned measures prove successful they will be applied to all military activities in the country. But why not now? There is no temporizing with such situations during a war. That should be the policy now.

Finally we are told that in "various stages of consideration" are projects for the joint use of reserve training facilities, procurement offices, automotive maintenance facilities and ship repair yards.

More of the same red tape, and another place to use the meat-ax.

National security demands that we maintain the largest military budget in our peacetime history, now and with in the foreseeable future. But the terrific burden we must assume makes it mandatory that we get a dollar's worth of value for every dollar expended.

A Drink to Weep Over

ONION whisky and onion brandy are going on sale in Japan in a couple of months. Distillers say it will have a real kick, and never mind the smell.

In a country that gets wine out of rice and beer out of malted, we are not surprised. Boy! Fetch us a tall, frosty onion julep—and make sure the hamburger is bruised, not crushed.

Henry's Sunday Text

HENRY WALLACE told a Sunday audience in Montana that the Sermon on the Mount offered the only practical solution to current world problems. He did not read the sermon to his audience, but it may be recalled that is the one in which Christ said, among other things: "No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other."

In Tune With the Times

Barton Rees Pogue

WHICH IS THE WEAKER SEX?

Which is the weaker sex? The anatomist would seem to be the person to answer this question: he does not quibble about the answer. He proceeds to tell you these things: (1) Males come into the world with more organic weakness and more malformations. (2) The male chemistry never functions as adequately as the female, the male gets out of order more easily.

The male excels only in muscular development. He kids himself by saying: "Well, perhaps men do not live so long as women, but that is because they have to take the brunt of things and the women are protected from the 'slings and arrows of outrageous fortune.'" The anatomist says: "Phooey, the truth of the matter is that the poor guy just can't take it like a woman."

High school boys shiver and shake in their woolies while the girls, with one quarter the weight of clothing, seem oblivious to the vagaries of the weather.

If you are a man don't ask the anatomist which is the weaker sex; he will let you down.

—GEORGE D. GREER, New Castle.

HOPE

Some day I hope to be a pleasant memory, When all that's left of me.

Is what folks say, I hope they'll somehow find that I was always kind.

And keep me in their mind That way.

—DOROTHY M. PARKE, Indianapolis.

MISSING ELEMENTS

For want of your faith a courage was lost For want of your love a hope was lost For want of your arms an embrace was lost For want of a smile a laugh was lost

—D. D. B., Indianapolis.

THE FAN

Around and around the fan goes in the same old circle, but it does a lot of good just the same.

—MI TU SENSEWORTH, Indianapolis.

AVARICE

I have all the money I'll ever need, But since I always want a lot more, I think I will become a middleman Between the farmer and the store.

—F. P. M., Indianapolis.

I LOVE YOU

I knew from the beginning it could only mean pain.

And I tried so hard not to care, But my heart wouldn't listen to the advice of my head.

Dear, my cross is so heavy to bear.

I thought I was immune to affairs of the heart, I was oh, so smug and supreme. Then came the day when you opened my door And walked straight into my dream.

Your eyes say so much, your lips not a thing. Do you know, dear, what I'm going thru? It would lighten the load and ease the pain. Just to know that you love me too.

—JANIE, Indianapolis.

I'M USED TO GRIEF

I'm used to grief, It has no sting: 'Tis joy I fear Will take a wing.

—JUNE WINONA SNYDER, Indianapolis.

THE RUNNER-UP

To see the longed-for prize slip through your hand,

To lose by inches, be the Runner-up.

To fail, success almost at your command—These form the bitter dregs within the cup.

—LEONORA BOLD MARTIN, Kokomo.

GANGSTER

Conceived by lust and ignorance, born into poverty, nurtured on the milk of fear, disciplined with the whip of selfishness, taught from the book of envy, inspired with hatred, tempted with blood-dripping gold, stumbling through the night with gun or knife clutching in a hand that knows not what it does, following a light, or what appears to be a light, that will lead him on and on to the greater darkness of destruction and death.

—VIRGINIA FORTNEY, Indianapolis.

GOP POLICIES . . . By Peter Edson

Dewey's Talks Leave Issues Unexplained

WASHINGTON, Oct. 12—Careful reading of Gov. Thomas E. Dewey's campaign speeches thus far leaves many things to be explained. It is still impossible to tell just where the Republican candidate stands on most domestic issues, what policies he will pursue when he becomes President.

This thought is apparently bothering a number of people. The serious literature analyzing Mr. Dewey's mind is becoming voluminous and important.

Open Root Jr., in Harper's magazine, identifies Dewey with the progressive wing of the Republican Party and prays he will stay that way. Mr. Root was one of Wendell Willkie's original backers. Elmer Davis, in the same publication, has discovered that Mr. Dewey is a real leader, but fears that the reactionary congressmen will cause him trouble.

Robert T. Elson, in the current Fortune magazine, goes beyond these two analyses by trying to forecast Mr. Dewey's policies. Material for this index of the Dewey mind comes not so much from the candidate himself as from his braintrusters.

Dewey 'Team' Outdoes FDR Braintrust

THIS Dewey "team," as it's called, is rapidly assuming proportions to make Franklin D. Roosevelt's braintrust of Howe, Tugwell, Moley and McEntire look like a bunch of rank amateurs. The FDR-five was thrown together after Roosevelt's nomination. Dewey's team has been with him five years or more. The lineup: John Foster Dulles on foreign policy, Elliott V. Bell on finance, John E. Burton on budget, Charles D. Breitenthal on law, Paul Lockwood and James C. Hagerty as personal aids.

The difference between the FDR braintrust and Dewey's seems to be this: Roosevelt's braintrusters did a lot of original thinking and independent acting. Dewey wants his team merely to bring him facts. He is to do the thinking. Then his policies are argued out and decided upon in full conference of all advisers. All teamsters pass Dewey the ball, and he shoots the basket, as it were.

As for what the present Dewey policies are, the Fortune report plus Dewey's own vague campaign statements add up like this:

Labor—No basic retreat from the Taft-Hartley Act. This does not preclude some amendments, later on. What they might be is not stated. In his Missoula, Mont., speech Dewey promised to tell where he stood on labor, later in the campaign.

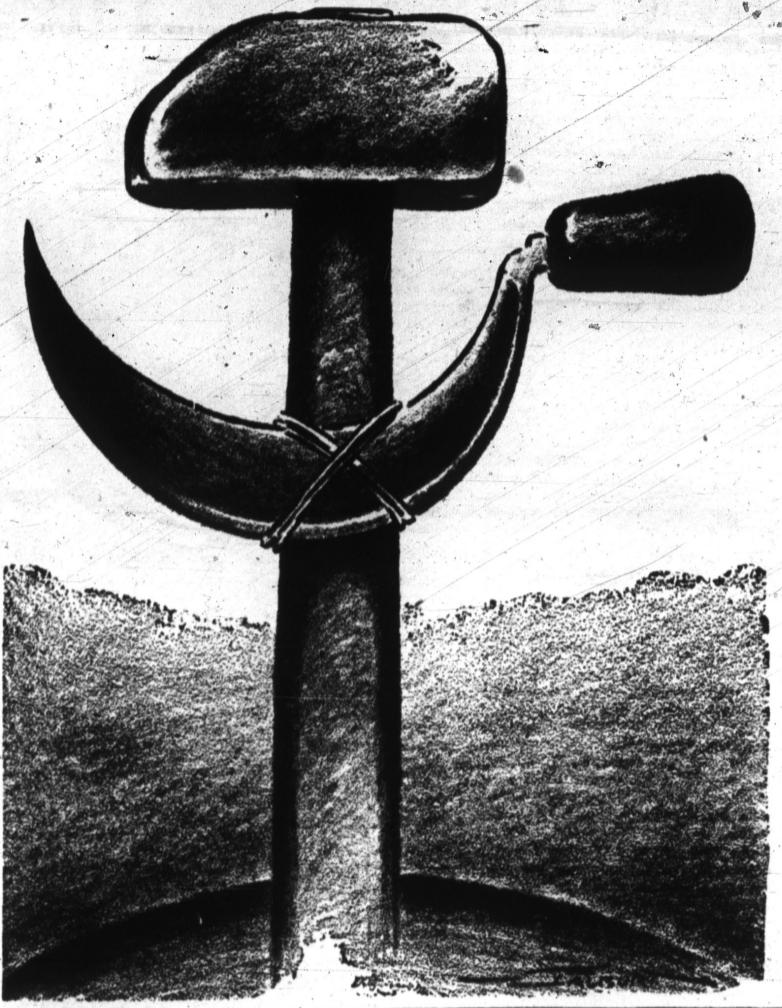
Carry-Over From 1944

DEWEY wants to strengthen the Department of Labor. This is a carry-over from his 1944 campaign. The last Congress, it will be remembered, pretty well shot the Department of Labor to pieces.

Farm Policy—Continue price supports, crop loans and federal subsidies for soil conservation. More aid for co-operatives. High Prices and Inflation—Dewey has made two speeches on this subject, at Albuquerque and San Francisco. His program is: 1—Bring able and honest men and women to Washington. 2—Cut government spending. 3—Pay off the national debt. 4—Stop grain speculation by government employees. 5—Bring to Washington men and women of integrity. 6—Start supporting vigorously the American system of free opportunity.

Fortune says Dewey favors postponing all public works spending—except, of course, for reclamation projects necessary to

Armageddon?



NATIONAL AFFAIRS . . . By Marquis Childs

Official U. S. Policy Confused By Conflicts in Statements

WASHINGTON, Oct. 12—In the confusion currently prevailing in Washington, it is difficult to tell who is making policy and what policy is from day to day. This is true in matters both large and small.

The latest and most obvious example is the proposal to send Chief Justice Fred M. Vinson as a peace emissary to Stalin in Moscow. This seems to have gone so far that free radio time was requested for a broadcast announcing the move, at which point Secretary of State Marshall persuaded President Truman to call it off.

But they also agree that in the event of failure it is essential to plan for a war that might last 10 years or even, as Gen. Bradley has said, 30 years.

They also know, as does anyone with the slightest imagination or understanding, that a total war—and all war in the atomic age must be total—lasting many years would utterly transform the American economy and in all probability the American political system. We would almost be forced to accept a totalitarian pattern.

One reason for the confusion is that so many voices are raised, often with conflicting views, at a time of gravest peril. The public can hardly be expected to discriminate between official policy and the personal views of officials who criticize or seek to persuade opinion to go in another direction.

Policy on Atomic War

GEN. HOY S. VANDENBERG, for the Air Forces, and Gen. Omar S. Bradley, for the Army, are in agreement that an atomic attack might paralyze the enemy and bring a war to a relatively swift conclusion.

But they also agree that in the event of failure it is essential to plan for a war that might last 10 years or even, as Gen. Bradley has said, 30 years.

They also know, as does anyone with the slightest imagination or understanding, that a total war—and all war in the atomic age must be total—lasting many years would utterly transform the American economy and in all probability the American political system. We would almost be forced to accept a totalitarian pattern.

One point in the policy debate involves the right of men in uniform to express themselves freely on differences of strategy and tactics.

At the technical level, this seems to be highly desirable. But when it impinges on top policy, and newspaper headlines about a three months atomic war certainly get close to policy, then restraint becomes necessary.

These letter writers are evidently in sympathy with these degenerates and possibly are jealous.

What about the woman who last week just stepped out her back door doing her nightly chores and was grabbed and had her sweater torn off. Was she indecently dressed? It's too chilly nowadays to go without a lot of clothes, so I think these letter writers and opinions are silly and uncalled for. The modern miss of today wears long skirts and is fully clothed so you old timers still screaming about indecent dress are several years behind the time.

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