

# The Clinton Chronicle

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### How to Lick Inflation

High prices continue as the main concern of many people who are flocking to Washington for relief. What do we see there, both the Republican and Democratic parties playing politics with chief interest centered on this year's big elections. Members of congress fiddle for votes with anti-inflation forces which get nowhere. The problem will not be solved by government or a return to price controls. This will only make matters worse. Let the OPA stay dead forever.

Big business could lick inflation. So could union labor. Combined they could stop it quickly. If labor unions instead of threatening new wage demands, would make the flat statement that these demands were "out" and that production would be speeded up, provided industry will check the rise in their prices and, wherever compatible with good economics, will begin to lower prices—the inflation back would be broken and industry wouldn't need to raise prices any more—and wouldn't dare do it.

And if that powerful triumvirate—business, capital and industry management—made the flat statement that they were going to begin to cut prices, even if they had to lower dividends, they wouldn't have to ask labor to forego wage raises. Until something like this happens, prices will remain high regardless of Washington chatter.

Everybody passes the buck on prices—just as everybody wants a low price when he buys and a high price when he sells. This blindness to the facts of life has clouded the whole price problem. The workingman wants cheap food and clothing—along with all-time record wages. The farmer wants machinery at pre-war prices—along with a record price for crops. Of course, such a Utopia is an impossibility, and those who dance must finally pay the piper.

Prices are high, too high, we all know. Their present level is the inevitable result of many forces, and is a perfectly natural development following the greatest war in history, regardless of what the trend may be in the future. But high prices are a fair reflection of present-day wages, purchasing power, consumer demand, public debt, and high taxes which government has refused to lower. High taxes is a big factor in high prices, but government as it criticizes business, refuses to recognize this fact. We will not have low prices so long as we have high wages, unprecedented consumer demand, enormous debt and extravagant spending in peacetime. The latter two are the reason your withholding and other taxes remain high.

### If We Lose Freedom We Lose All

This is a day of confusion, uncertainty. No one can read the future.

But that does not mean it need be an age of cynical resignation to failure—and of the gradual abandonment of rights and privileges that took two thousand years of almost continuous conflict for mankind to secure.

No one can minimize the problems that now confront the nations, ranging from the terrible specter of unleashed atomic energy down to such temporary difficulties as shortages of materials. The very extent and number of these problems have added to the confusion. They have, as an old proverb goes, "made it hard to see the forest because of the trees." They have obscured the fact that there is really only one basic problem, and that all the rest hinge upon it in one way or another. Congress nor Washington bureaucracy will never solve our problems. Look at the mess they have made all along the line.

We might as well face this fact—sooner or later, the people of the world, including the United States, will have to make a complete and final choice between the chimera of "security" and the reality of freedom.

There is danger in using such words as "freedom" and "liberty" these days. Dictators and tyrants have attempted to pervert them out of any semblance of their true meaning, and to a large degree they are succeeding. Hitler, after all, established his slave state and fought his disastrous war for world enslavement

with "freedom" and "liberty" as his rallying call to millions. Even so, the real free man can be described. He is free to express his opinion, whether or not it is in agreement with the majority or with the government in power. He is free to worship as he pleases. He is free to print what he thinks in a newspaper or elsewhere, subject to the old-established laws of libel and public decency. He is free to work or not to work, and to change jobs of his own volition without dictation from employer, labor leader or politician. He is free to run for public office on any platform he devises, or to vote for the candidate of his choice. He is free to engage in business under a competitive system which penalizes and favors none. He is free to determine his own destiny, and he is not the tool of the state or any other interest.

These are not separate, unrelated entities. Every last one of them is dependent on the others. When one freedom is lost, all the rest are endangered. No dictatorship has ever been established all at once. A right is abrogated here, another there, the state seizes business, then takes over the labor unions, new interpretations are placed on the rights of free speech and assembly—so it goes, step after step, until the job of despotism is completed.

Dictators trade on fear, fear of want, fear of hunger, fear of cold, all the natural material fears. They promise a maximum of material "security" to the confused people they entice. And this poses another question we had better ponder—can a people in return for the surrender of their freedoms, obtain more goods, a higher standard of living, a greater measure of protection from adversity?

The question answers itself. The greatest material advancement in the history of the world has been in the nation where there has been the greatest amount of freedom for the individual—the United States. It is no accident that the pay of the average American worker, measured in terms of purchasing power, is ten or a dozen times that of the average Russian worker. A still better comparison is found with present-day England, the country to which we are bound the closest by the ties of a common language, inheritance and tradition. Socialism—which can be the vanguard of dictatorship—has aggravated every English economic problem. It has produced less goods for export, not more goods for export, less coal, not more coal, less agricultural production, not more agricultural production. Worst of all, it has sapped the energies and ambitions of the people. There can never be progress in a state where individual opportunity, initiative and enterprise are discouraged, and the government does all the thinking.

The super-state is not only spiritually barren but materially inefficient. When we attempt to trade freedom for so-called security, we lose both.

The hope of this nation is that our people will profit by example. Just look at world conditions. The hope of the world is that it will be able to break the shackles of oppression. The hope of mankind lies in a reaffirmation of the rights and dignity of the individual. Americans need more than ever before to realize this truth.

### Lindsay H. Cromer Passes At Kingstree

Lindsay H. Cromer, 58, editor and publisher of The County Record at Kingstree, died Monday morning at the hospital there following a critical illness. The funeral services were held Tuesday afternoon.

Mr. Cromer was a former resident of this city during which time he was employed in the printing business. He was a son of Mrs. Annie R. Stevens Cromer, and the late L. H. Cromer, Sr., who lived in this community for a number of years.

He is survived by his widow and one daughter, his mother, Mrs. Cromer, who made her home with him; one sister, Mrs. S. A. Glover of Wilson, N. C., two brothers, J. P. Cromer of Kingstree and J. F. Cromer of Ocala, Fla. The latter about 35 years ago owned The Clinton Gazette which he purchased from its founder, the late W. J. Denny.

### Pepsi-Cola Announces Treasure Top Contest; \$203,000 In Cash Prizes

Probably the most spectacular competition ever to be offered to the public began Sunday, January 4th, with the opening of the Pepsi-Cola "Treasure Top" contest offering \$203,725 in cash prizes. It was announced yesterday by T. S. Hartness, manager of the Pepsi-Cola Bottling company of Greenville.

"In my opinion," said Mr. Hartness, "America has never seen anything like this before. There are over 15,000 cash prizes for the public plus over 900 cash prizes for the dealers who help their customers to win."

"Every entry wins at least a 'treasure certificate' for 100 points in the 'family sweepstakes,' and the family who wins the sweepstakes gets as first prize \$25,000 in cash."

"In addition to that, there are 51 separate cash prizes awarded each month in every state of the Union. All you need to enter the contest is one Pepsi-Cola bottle top with a design hidden under the cork."

"In addition to the contest," Mr. Hartness pointed out, "it's going to be a lot of fun for every man, woman and child to collect and trade these Pepsi-Cola treasure tops and try and get completed sets of the different insignias."

"In the monthly contests one treasure top is enclosed with a 25-word statement on 'Pepsi-Cola—hits the spot because . . .'. In addition, the entrant states the number of different treasure tops they have so far collected. The number of tops so collected makes no difference in the awarding of the prizes which are judged completely on the merit of the statement. Every entrant gets at least a treasure certificate for 100 points for the big family sweepstakes."

"At the end of six months, when the family sweepstakes close, the 100 families in the United States having the greatest number of points will be the finalists in the family sweepstakes contest. Among these 100 families, 40 family prizes will be awarded—the first prize being \$25,000 in cash."

"The entire contest will be judged by the Reuben H. Donnelley corporation, the nationally known judging organization."

All treasure top entries should be

mailed to P. O. Box 12, New York 8, New York

"In our opinion, it is the biggest, most exciting, and amusing contest ever brought forth in this country," concluded Mr. Hartness.

The detailed rules appear in a big special announcement in today's paper.

### SIMS BUYS HOME

William B. Sims has purchased the residence on South Broad street owned until recently by H. W. Simmons, and occupied by Mr. Sims. The sale was made from Kilgore and Hunter, Laurens realtors.

### FINAL SETTLEMENT

Take notice that on the 3rd day of February, 1948, I will render a final account of my acts and doings as Administratrix of the estate of Berle Conway Hooper in the office of the Judge of Probate of Laurens County at 10 o'clock a.m., and on the same day will apply for a final discharge from my trust as Administratrix.

Any person indebted to said estate is notified and required to make payment on or before that date; and all persons having claims against said estate will present them on or before said date, duly proven, or be forever barred.

MABELL HOOPER,  
Administratrix.  
January 1, 1948.—29-4cw.

### Gin Days

Due to the scarcity of Fuel Oil for operating our cotton dryer, we ask that our customers send cotton to gin only on

### FRIDAYS

It takes several gallons of oil to heat up for one bale, so by ginning all on one day we save fuel which is badly needed for home furnaces.

C-W-S  
GUANO CO.  
Phone 62

## Home Cooking DAYTON HOTEL COFFEE SHOP

### Regular Meals

Breakfast . . . . . 6 to 8:30  
Dinner . . . . . 11:30 to 2  
Supper (week days) . . . . . 5 to 7:30  
Sunday . . . . . 5 to 9

Mrs. J. W. Blake, owner, welcomes everyone to visit the dining room, now open under her management.

# CLEARANCE SALE!

COATS and SUITS . . . . . 1/2-Price  
DRESSES . . . . . 1/2-Price  
SUITS, one lot . . . . . \$5.00  
DRESSES, one lot . . . . . \$5.00  
RAINCOATS, one lot . . . . . \$5.00

### SWEATERS REDUCED

### BAGS REDUCED

### All Sales Final

## Chaney's Dress Shoppe

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**Goodyear TIRES — BATTERIES**  
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Open All Night  
Phone 440

### UNCLE JOSH

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**EXPERT AUTO REPAIRING**  
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West Main Street

**Pitts Coal Co.**  
"Best Quality Coal"  
Phone 75  
**Pitts Service Station**  
"Service With A Smile"

**CLINTON CAFE**  
**GOOD FOOD WELL SERVED**  
"On the Square"

**DEPENDABLE**  
—Lubrication  
—Tire Service  
—Washing & Polishing  
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Phone 27

**D. E. TRIBBLE CO.**  
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**Real Estate**  
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**WE ARE READY TO SERVE YOU!**  
Call 458  
**Service Laundry and Cleaners**  
"Service With A Hop"

Willie Purdee bought his girl a corsage 'n' had to glue it on her shoulder when she showed up in one o' them strapless evenin' gowns . . . Snow is so pretty to watch yer neighbor shovelin'.