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Last Shift
Admiral Darlan Met the End As He Rejoined the Right

The end came to Admiral Jean Francois Darlan, the Vichy Viceroy, in the midst of his last great act of collaboration. His return to the camp of the righteous was little more than a month after the assassin's bullet struck out his life and dropped the black curtain on as strange a player as the stage of the twentieth century has seen. The bald little man of France was the very spirit of Hitler's diseased Europe.

Over the laboring world, the Admiral's death will not be greatly mourned. Long before President Roosevelt branded him as a temporary expedient, a pawn in an early stage of battle, the nations at war knew his new role for what it was. It was too clearly something out of his past of pandering, glibly shifting as power shifted. The man's life had been a thing of bowing and scraping, of bootlicking. He was not destined to play a major role in the conquest of the world. But all the same, a valuable ally lies dead in Algiers. In his brief moment as a tool of the United Nations he had brought a new empire under our arms and ended a war which had been raging from Paris to Congress. Today, the hubbub ceased suddenly. The little fanatic had served his purpose, given his life, and a phase of our war is finished.

There is no knowing, now, whether he died at the hand of the enemy or a fiercely patriotic Frenchman, but it matters little. He had left enemies indiscriminately, wherever he traveled, and to the great cause of victory which dwarfs the lives of millions of men, his successor is likely to be of more importance than he himself.

It is probable that General Henri Giraud, the old man of miracles, the Boche-bater, will assume the slain Admiral's power and position—and his choice could cause only rejoicing in Allied nations. The General has left no puzzling doubts in his wake through two wars. The death of Jean Darlan, who rose from obscurity to wealth and fame by his policy of collaboration, must be saddening to a world knowing the truth of John Donne's line, "For every cold that washes away, Europe is the less." Send not to know for whom the bell tolls. It tolls for thee.

But the months are too few since Darlan himself uttered these words: "Dunkirk was glorious." . . . and, "The Germans are more generous and understanding of the needs of humanity than the English." There went a man who never knew the trust of his fellowmen, and it was he who would have it so.

Out Of Joint
Liquor Trial Of Thirteen Pictures Lack of Control

The recent full-scale drive against bootlegging in Charlotte and Mecklenburg County by the combined forces of the Police Departments, and the subsequent treatment received by thirteen defendants in City Recorder's Court brings up the old jack-in-the-box liquor question for the community once more. Bootlegging, between racket and sentence, law enforcement has suffered a defeat.

For two or three weeks police officers planned their coup, and, strategy and tactics being sound, they made a good haul of alleged violators. That, presumably, should have about cleaned up the county. We have no doubt that the Police were chagrined when the thirteen left the court room with seven suspended sentences, three acquittals, two continued prayers for judgment, one payment of costs, \$75 in fines, plus cost, and a total of those doing a half year on the roads, suspended.

Greetings, All
Wishes For The World

By Samuel Grafton
NEW YORK
A very happy holiday to President Roosevelt, who is quite obviously treasuring each beautiful calm day, before the next Congress convenes.
He is spending this holiday month trimming his unofficial war cabinet. The President has taken two men, Admiral Leahy and former Senator Byrnes, and has built them, imperceptibly, to where one is now the buffer between White House and Congress on war affairs, while the second runs interference in the sphere of our domestic economy.
(Just as the President used to have buffers and ball-carriers who matched the progressive mood of a few years ago, from Tugwell to Corcoran, he now has a pair of men who match the conservative swing. Leahy and Byrnes have risen faster than any other two men in Washington in the past few months. Henderson is out, the hatches are being battered down, storm windows are being put up, and that tough, determined man in the White House intends to try for continuity of policy with a new cast of characters. The old master is preparing to pass a miracle.)
A happy holiday to everybody who hated Darlan, and a suggestion that they had better stop acting like cry-babies, frightening each other with tales of a dreary war, a lost peace, and an evil world. All is not lost.
A happy holiday to those who don't give up easily, who favor the winning of things, who once he knocked out by any particular sub-climax, like Darlan, in the long, serial story in which we find ourselves, somewhat to our surprise, to be the characters.

Naturally, a very happy holiday to all men in the armed services, who, in an age of talk, are joined with the people in the occupied countries in an unquittable enterprise. These are the men who know that in the field of physical struggle, sometimes you move forward on a straight line, and sometimes you take a side road, and sometimes you have to stop for a long waiting period, and sometimes you have to retreat temporarily, and that you take all these things as they come, without uttering the desolate woe, woe, sometimes heard among the ideologues on the civilian front.
A happy holiday to intelligent civilians, who are learning that the road to victory is not a straight line, but a crooked line, of many turnings, from Ham High Street to Dear Avenue, and so what? You take each turn, without petulance, patiently pointing out the true north, knowing that, in the end, the compass settles all arguments.

"Well, Mr. Bones—What's the Answer?"
—By Herblock



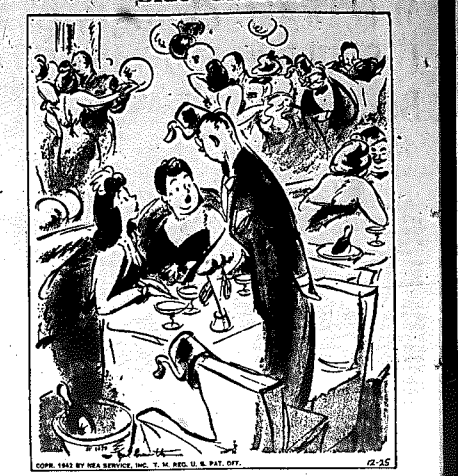
Platform Of The People
Uncle Sam And Whisky

Editors, The News
I want to ask a few simple questions and if any of the readers of your paper can answer them, I would appreciate it very much.
Why is it that the majority of our Government officials, the "Officers' Corps," which retained an interest in the love of money? What has the liquor interest done to build this country of ours and help starving hungry men in other lands? How many churches and colleges have they built?
The liquor traffic says your Government can't control liquor under prohibition. If they can't control liquor, how can they take your boys and send them to the ends of the earth? How can they take your boys off your car and the car itself if they choose? How can they permit millions of tons of sugar to be made into beer and restrict your sugar for your coffee and tea? Why prohibit the manufacture of thousands of kitchen tools and utensils made of iron and steel, but permit 30,000 tons of steel to go into beer kegs annually? Why use 2,875 million pounds of food products in the manufacture of liquor while millions are starving for bread?
Why allow you to spend only \$100.00 to put a shelter over your head while 370,000,000 feet of lumber was used in beer kegs last year? Why holler about a shortage of transportation and use 40,000 railroad cars to ship beer and liquor? Why was a ship going to the Solomon Islands, where Americans are locked in a death struggle with the Japs, full filled with beer?
Why is it that all the petitions from all the great religious bodies that have been sent to Washington have been ignored? Has the Church of Jesus Christ been grossly ignored and insulted? Why is it your allotment of coffee is one cup per day and you are permitted to buy one quart of liquor and all the beer and wine you want? Why is it we give our boys and our money to fight our enemies in Europe and other continents but do nothing to conquer our enemy No. 1 at home? Why?
—E. B. GOODIN.
Charlotte.

Hitler's Generals
Nazi Desperadoes Take Over The Army

By Dorothy Thompson
WASHINGTON

IF, THEN, we review the history of the relations between Hitler and the Officers' Corps of the German army, we see that it has always represented a potent menace to him. We see that the strain between Hitler's Nazis and the Army grew as Hitler's rule became more and more a breaking of the old. It has relaxed only in times of successive victories, and that it has now culminated in a wholesale reorganization which has put Party Generals into the leading military positions. Heinrich Himmler is now picking the Army chiefs.
There is encouragement for us in this, from a purely military standpoint. But the situation also contains serious dangers. The Officers' Corps, which retained an unbroken link with the code and tradition of the Prussian army, had certain inhibitions. This code and tradition were systematically broken down by Nazi Party penetration into the Army. But remnants of it remained and were incorporated in the leading officers. Now none of that code and tradition remain. The German Army is in the hands of desperadoes, and there is nothing they will not do to preserve the Nazi regime from defeat.
We are seeing the immediate effects of Hitler's army purge in the intensification of brutalities in occupied countries and in the blood-curdling massacre of all European Jews. On Dec. 17, Tass reported from Moscow, that the "German High Command" had set up at the request of Himmler, a "Balkan Punitive Council." It is led by the governor of Belgrade, General Loehr, and two SS generals. Their mission is to "clear the Balkan peninsula of anti-German elements." The council includes the Nazi General Kurt Daluege, successor of the notorious Hettich in Croatia, the Front-Brunner dictator, Antonides, and the Italian commander of occupation troops in Greece.
This little item is the symptom of the degeneration of the German Army command, which has flung to the winds every esige of a military code of honor. From shooting selected hostages for open acts of sabotage, whole peoples are to be



Task At Hand
GOP Challenged

By Raymond Clapper
WASHINGTON

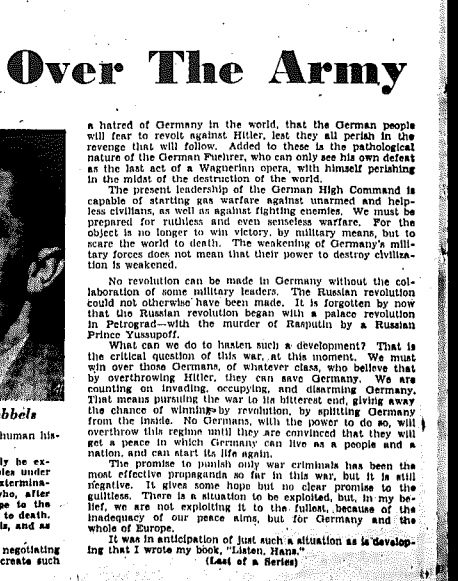
REPUBLICANS have a hard test coming in Congress. The test is whether they will be true conservatives and fight inflation. Very real danger exists that the fight against price control will turn into a runaway victory for inflation. The fight is so savage that Leon Henderson, in spite of his recognized ability, was thrown out to appease those who want the lid on prices sprung.
Farm organization leaders will meet here as the new Congress goes into session after the holidays to put the pressure on for higher farm prices. This will be a button-holding campaign, backed up by the kind of determination that can use the political blackjack. Senator Premier Brown was defeated for re-election in judgment for his having opposed the farm block price program in the last session. That kind of pressure campaign puts the fear of God into every Senator and Congressman who has a farm lobby organization working in his territory.
This time, it happens, the Administration is on the side of the conservatives. The White House is on the side of the sound money people, who want to hold the value of the dollar as steady as possible. But President Roosevelt is not the power in Congress that he was. He will need the help of the sound money Republicans in order to turn back the threat of price inflation which is coming in the new Congress. The threat has a real chance of succeeding this time. This fact that the Administration went so far as to sacrifice Leon Henderson in hope of appeasing the wild price boys is the best possible evidence of how seriously the Administration regards the threat.
The price-inflation group has found an excellent disguise for its campaign in the wide public irritation at regimentation and rationing restrictions. That public discontent has made it easier to advance the campaign to crack open price control, and particularly to revise upward the basis of agricultural prices.
The fight is led by Senator Elmer Thomas, the Oklahoma Democrat, who has been bell-wether for the silver-inflation group for years. He made the fight to print greenbacks in the early days of the Roosevelt Administration, and the President, although they new and at the height of his power over Congress, was not able to beat it outright but only by accepting discretionary power to issue greenbacks, which authority he never used. This group of agitators, the inflationists descended from the old easy-money school of William J. Bryan.
The question now is whether the Republicans, who have the balance of power in this situation, will use their newly-acquired leverage for or against a break toward higher prices. Will they regard Leon Henderson as the ogre who has held down prices, or as the conscientious officer who fought successfully to hold the value of the dollar steady against the terrific forces of inflation which have gathered out of war conditions?

If the Republicans throw their strength to the inflationist group, then price control will become a blunt force, the cost of living will begin the kind of sharp upward zoom that it took in the last war. When everything is far short of demand, as it is now, sellers can get any price they ask—a rich can always buy regardless of price. Only price restraint and rationing will hold prices within reason. What kind of rents do you think landlords would be charging workers in overcrowded Washington, and in other war-boom centers if it were not for rent control? They would be fantastic and out of all proportion to what the property owners rated.
You can't allow prices to be fixed by supply and demand in this situation because there is no free market. The Government is a commanding buyer, leaving only an abnormally short supply to be divided among the civilian population.
Tight price control and rationing are efforts to be fair to everybody, rich and poor alike. More than that, these measures prevent the inflationary distortion of the cost of living so that you don't have to pay double for things as they did in the last war, and the farmers get a big let-down. You remember that the farm belt had a sickly delirious hangover that lasted through the boom of the twenties.
It is a question whether the Republicans will use their balance of power on the side of holding back inflation, holding the economy steady, or on the inflationary side which may at the moment be politically popular.

Hitler's Generals
Nazi Desperadoes Take Over The Army

By Dorothy Thompson
WASHINGTON

A hatred of Germany in the world, that the German people still fear to revolt against Hitler, lest they all perish in his revenge that will follow. Added to these is the pathological nature of the German Fuehrer, who can only see his own defeat in the last act of a Wagnerian opera, who sees himself perishing in the midst of the destruction of the world.
The present leadership of the German High Command is capable of starting a world war, and of continuing it, against the less civilians, as well as against fighting enemies. We must be prepared for ruthless and even senseless warfare. For the object is no longer to win victory, but to win the victory balance of power on the side of holding back inflation, holding the economy steady, or on the inflationary side which may at the moment be politically popular.
No revolution can be made in Germany without the collaboration of some military leaders. The Russian revolution could not otherwise have been made. It is forgotten by now that the Russian revolution began with a palace revolution in Petrograd with the murder of Rasputin by a Russian Prince Yusupov.
What can we do to hasten such a development? That is the critical question of this war, at this moment. We must win over those Germans, of whatever class, who believe that overthrowing Hitler is their only hope, and who are counting on invading, occupying, and disarming Germany. That means paralyzing the war in its bitter end, giving away the last act of the Wagnerian opera, and leaving the Germans in the hands of the enemy. No German will be able to overthrow this regime until they are convinced that they will get a peace in which Germany can live as a people and a nation, and can start its life again.
The promise to punish only war criminals has been the most effective propaganda for Hitler's war, but it is still negative. It gives comfort to those who are not clear promise to the future. There is a situation to be exploited, but, in my belief, we are not exploiting it to the fullest, because of the influence of the German people. The German people will overthrow this regime until they are convinced that they will get a peace in which Germany can live as a people and a nation, and can start its life again.
It was in anticipation of just such a situation as is developing that I wrote my book, "Lies, Lies, Lies" (Last of a Series)



Picker Himmler Praise Goebbels
held as hostages, under a reign of terror unique in human history.