

Another Blunder

By Raymond Clapper

WASHINGTON
A Government official says the Army is switching from rubber to steel tanks on tanks. That means a loss of ten per cent in speed. But the rubber shortage makes it necessary that to slow down the speed of our tanks.

UNLIMITED PRIVILEGES FOR CONGRESS
I have a lot of sympathy with the need of Senators and Representatives to get around, and am far less inclined to question the mileage they pile up than I am the spirit—the selfish, obstructive, despotic attitude that they display in claiming unlimited privileges.

THE VERY MEN TO WHOM THE WHOLE COUNTRY LOOKS TO see an example in the Senators to waive their rights and accept the personal inconveniences needed to help win the war are doing exactly the reverse.

THEY ARE HANDING OUT PERSONAL ABUSE TO rationing officials and are denouncing the press for reporting the fact that they are chiseling unlimited gasoline cards.

BARLEY WILL 'TAKE' HIS WITHOUT APOLOGY
The Senate majority leader, Barkley instead of appealing to his colleagues to help save gasoline files into a rage when Senator Downey of California asks the Senators to waive their rights and give themselves to restrict their use of gasoline.

REPRESENTATIVE FADDIS OF PENNSYLVANIA holds out for his right to unlimited use of gasoline to campaign for the next election.

HE AND THE WHOLE HORDE OF THEM ARE indulging in an orgy of moral-destroying chatter. Representative Leland Ford of California says in the House that it is time Congress showed that "we're not going to take orders from the business community."

REPRESENTATIVE WILSON OF INDIANA, even though nauseated by this line of talk, challenged the need of unlimited cards for Congressmen. He was saying that he has had a credit to men in their positions when Representative Hoffman of Michigan jumped up and, by declaring the remarks improper, cut Wilson off from further discussion.

A HAND B-C CARDS MAY HAVE TO BE CUT
The number of unlimited cards being issued is so unexpectedly large that the allowance on all other cards may have to be cut so there will be enough fuel for the unlimited cards.

THE ATTITUDE OF THESE SENATORS AND Representatives makes one's blood boil. But more than that, it makes you solemnly wonder for the future of Congress. This is symptomatic like the pension grab last winter. The reform movement has not vitiated in itself and had much to commend it but Congress stupidly tried to sneak it through at the very time the country was being asked to make heavy sacrifices.

POPULAR REPRESENTATIVES was so strong that some members already have been defeated on the issue. More are likely to be the dust, especially now that Senators and Representatives have blundered again by this destructive and stupid conduct with regard to the gasoline ration.

EXPERIENCED HAND (Oakland and Tracy, Calif. Times)
Rev. Roland Robinson reports his party well under control at this hour. The forest fire in this section writing on Monday.

Uncorking It

—By Herblock



"The Moon Is Down"

By Dorothy Thompson

WASHINGTON
A RAGING debate is going on amongst critics and laymen about John Steinbeck's book and play, "The Moon Is Down." The pros and cons line up on the question whether the book is good or bad war propaganda.



THE BOOK IS JUDGMENT RATHER THAN HATRED
Mr. Steinbeck's accusers seem annoyed by his absolute faith that we are going to win this war because we are on the side of the human race.

IT IS NOT "GREAT," BUT IT IS SUPERB PROPAGANDA
I do not think that Steinbeck's book is "great." It is no "War and Peace" or "Anna Karenina" or "The Brothers Karamazov."

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CONGRESS 'PUNTS' AGAINST THE NAZIS
The adverse critics of Mr. Steinbeck are not very far from the German commander it is so stipulated a figure. It is depicted as a little civilized and a little like his job—it reveals him emotionally.

TODAY'S BIBLE THOUGHT
And the only way of life that exists; that has been known to me the best of life; that shall make me full of joy with thy countenance.—Acts 2:8.

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Why Poor Congress?

By Paul Mallon

WASHINGTON
HOW the brunt of X-card scorn happened to be reserved solely for the poor paid heads of Congress is not clear.

THE OFFICIAL automobiles provided for Cabinet members and authorities of rank carry this year a special Government license plate (no state plate). This plate entitles them to unlimited gas without restriction.

ALL GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS COULD GET X-CARDS
Furthermore, all other Government employees of any rank using their cars on official business are entitled to X-cards under the regulations.

IF ANY ridicule must be expressed, it would naturally apply to all officials—not only Federal, but state, local and foreign diplomatic for they are exempt also.

ONE SENATOR INSISTS ON A B-CARD
Senator Francis Brown of Michigan, voted to register at the special capitol room, when handed a B-C card, he refused to accept it.

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MONDAY, MAY 18, 1942

Sweet Unity

The President Purchases a Measure From the Communies

COMMUNITION of Earl Browder's four-year sentence, read the White House statement, would have a tendency to promote national unity and allay any feeling which may exist in some minds that the unusually long sentence in Browder's case was by way of penalty imposed upon him because of his political views.

OUR OWN candid feeling is that Browder's four-year term, imposed while Russia was playing pals with Germany, is that the sentence was about 50 per cent political. And honestly would you not admit, further, that at the time they were delighted that a reasonable pretext had been found to dispose of this man who availed himself of the liberties of the United States in order to foment discord among its people.

AND by his release now, our own feeling of unity is not at all enhanced—in fact, may actually be somewhat subdued. Whose unity, then, did the White House statement refer to? The unity of the U. S. and Russia? In that light Browder's release would appear wholly unprofitable.

BUT, no; "national unity," the statement said, which can be taken to mean unity within the nation. And do you, sir, and you, madam, feel your unity glow at this development? Plainly, you do not. You feel it cool, if anything. You do not relish having a revolutionary turned loose into the midst of our war efforts.

PRAY, then, whose unity did the White House statement have in mind? Why, extra, that's an easy one. The unity of the American Communists, the unity of the radicals in the American Labor Party, the unity of all the drafted pinkos everywhere, so that they would love the United States? Naw, they're doing that already on instructions via the party line from Moscow. So that they would continue to think well of the New Deal and have nothing to say that would fall out with its proprietor. Exactly.

For Publication

Nazi Envoy Puts Out a Deliberate Lie in Lisbon

IT'S a pretty good bet Dr. Hans Thompson, the former German Chief of Affairs in Washington, is staring in Lisbon but it won't fool many people on this side of the Atlantic.

DR. Thompson, it is reported, first took to the press that the German had best a risky business, on the Lisbon waterfront) and exhorted that it was great to be "free" again. He then delivered himself of a short oration, saying that the United States is blushing about almost everything concerning its production and delivery of war materials.

THAT'S what the Doctor says to the press. But what is he going to report to the Foreign Office when he gets back to Berlin? There will be no word of finding out for sure, but it's a good bet that Hitler will hear a different account.

BECAUSE the Doctor knows better, he knows that the war program to produce these so-called astronomical figures is, in many instances, not only on schedule, but actually ahead of the Roosevelt timetable. This fact has been officially reported to the American people, even if the Nazis have tried to keep the Germans from hearing it.

WHAT the Doctor will say by his real report ought to run something like this: "I'm sorry to hear that you say about America. As if by a miracle, this nation has been converted into a great arsenal. Whole states have become great armed camps. They are turning out planes and tanks in numbers that were almost unbelievable and in a few months the figure will be staggering. There is much complaint and not a little bickering, but do not let that mislead you. The whole American people are determined to fight this war through to the end. And they have the machines

A Salute...

To the Ladies Behind the 'B' Cards—Who Remained Ladies

ASIDE from the great grumble that gasoline rationing started, and all the more praiseworthy because of it, is the record made by the hundreds of Charlotte school teachers who issued A, B, and X cards to a clamorous public last week.

PLUCKY is a modest adjective to apply to these ladies who, for a second time within a month, were called on to represent the Government of the United States. They had no part in drawing up the rationing regulations, nor did they have authority to change them.

I WANT to tell you that the writer, as a citizen, was very greatly impressed by the efficient way done by the girls registering us for gasoline cards.

I watched them work, while waiting my turn, and it appeared to me that in spite of the strain they are under, were working under, they were most courteous and most considerate. I think they are due a vote of thanks.

THE MOTION is in order. We second it.

Turning Point

New War Plant Will Stop Emigration of Our Workers

ON the nineteenth floor of the Liberty Life Building, architects are drafting plans for an industry that is destined to be the turning point in Charlotte's war effort. Up until now this city has been losing workers, losing executives, losing professional men. In a few weeks, thanks to a new enterprise that will employ upwards of 6,000 persons, we are going to start getting most of them back and others besides.

NO longer will Charlotte men and women be obliged to move to Baltimore or New York to get their jobs. There will be plenty of work to do right here in Mecklenburg County where, incidentally, most of the pay roll will be spent.

AN estimated 37,000 Charlotteans (over 14 years of age) are presently gainfully employed on jobs not including emergency public works. The opening up of 6,000 new jobs is a potent shot in the arm, coming as it does when many a Charlotte worker feels his job getting shaky underneath.

PERHAPS the most significant detail in the statement that more than half of the new jobs will be open to women. It is no exaggeration, we think, to say that Charlotte is well-supplied with idle women.

AT the time of the 1940 census, 17,107 women were working in Charlotte. More than a fourth of these, 5,333 to be exact, were domestic service workers, maids, cleaners, laundresses. They are opening up 6,000 new jobs is a potent shot in the arm, coming as it does when many a Charlotte worker feels his job getting shaky underneath.

A picture page gives us a Missouri mayor in a gas mask, and we haven't been so unnerved since the late Coolidge was the Indian war bonnet with his double-breasted serge.