



THE CHARLOTTE NEWS

And Evening Chronicle

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WEDNESDAY, MAY 27, 1942

Step On The Gas

Rationing Board Jam Calls For Extraordinary Measures

The Mecklenburg Rationing Board, whose members are well known, has a tremendous, complex and thankless job to do. And R. E. Rippen, its chairman, who serves with distinction in the military, is being commended for his patriotic acceptance of a place he undoubtedly did not want, a demerand of which must make his life a miserable and the practice of law impossible.

For this public servant and his associates would be unworthy of the munificence not to show every consideration. At the same time, rationing officials are entrusted with an absolute authority, and in the case of gasoline rationing, they exercise it in a manner in which they exercise it in the rationing of men and women to still, in characteristic American style, are scrapping to make a living for themselves and their families.

It is easy to believe that the Rationing Board has been swamped with applications for gasoline. Many rationing officials, nevertheless, think that all the reason why it should take extraordinary measures to run these applications through the mill and pass upon them. It is plain to see that present members of the board are wholly inadequate for the more serious work ahead. It is to be hoped that the board will be adequate quarters should be made for many salesmen and business men, and their gassed-up competitors.

Advice To Voters

Better Not To Vote at All Than To Vote Willy-Nilly

"Vote for Three" (or two or one or none as the case may be), the ballot is, and many people take it as an end, thereby frequently voting indiscriminately for candidates they know nothing about.

If a ballot is invalidated by voting for more than the indicated number, it is strictly all right to vote for fewer than the indicated number—indeed, it is advisable to vote for no candidate at all rather than to vote blindly, thereby conceding out votes which have been demanded by the exercise of some intelligence.

Take, for instance, the ballot for the congressional candidates in Saturday's closing primary. "Vote for Four," it demanded, thereby putting into effect the related re-appointment which gave the House a good representation of the eleven—count 'em—eleven candidates, and maybe the little voter checks 'em over and puts X-marks by the names of the only two men whom he deems to be acceptable.

But he should be aware that, for if he votes for two others whom he does not know to be acceptable, he impairs the chances of the two men whom he deems to be acceptable. Likewise, he impairs by so much the votes which other citizens have cast with some discrimination. Vote, by all means, provided you know whom you're voting for. If you don't know, try to find out. If you can't find out, don't vote blindly. Just skip it.

No Blueprint

We Fight That We May Win in That We May—What?

Over-production of words and rationing have brought failure to many a promising generation of mankind and undug many an opportunity when it was within their grasp. Now hidden behind the black curtains of total war, comes the awesome Second Chance of the Twentieth Century.

Over-words in the west are about to assemble the perfect man? They might as well be told that this, in practice, is bismarck.

If \$25,000 per unit is being used for the film cuties with swimming pools, they are all fixed at least to take in one another's washing.

One of his men is working on an international long-term credit plan which will be a success. Like the RFC would invest large sums of our money in underdeveloped nations to enable them to produce.

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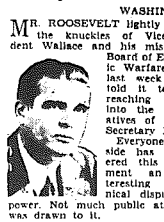
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Wallace Vs. Hull

By Paul Mallon



MR. ROOSEVELT lightly tapped the knuckles of Vice-President Wallace and his mis-named Board of Economic Warfare again last week. A D.D. told it to stop the preaching deeper into the precincts of B. I. A. Secretary Hull.

Everyone outside has considered the incident an interesting technical dispute over power. Not much public attention was drawn to it.

In my opinion, the issues involved constitute the second most important story in Washington and the world. Down beneath the conflict in authority, there seems to me, is a basic fundamental difference of opinion as to procedure in the post-war world. The manner in which these two opposing forces are eventually aligned will determine the course of the world we live in for perhaps many generations.

FUNDAMENTAL CONFLICT IS QUOTE UNQUOTE
The opposing forces do not yet admit that this fundamental conflict exists, but you can see it speering as obvious as the Washington monument and the Jefferson Memorial. There is no need to go beyond their spoken official words to prove it.

In the first place neither side is thinking primarily about economic warfare. Mr. Wallace's primary interest is to prepare a plan for the post-war world which he announced (May 9) he made a speech called "The Price of Free World Victory" in which he seemed to be drawing considerable reprint publicity because of the attention it did not attract at the time.

In that speech, Mr. Wallace said a lot about liberty with which everyone agreed to one or another world liberty conference where your realm so this point can be accepted as unanimously adopted. The line was drawn for post-war purposes with an anecdote as follows:

"Half in fun and half in earnest I said the other day to Madame Litloff: 'The object of this war is to make sure that everywhere in the world there is the privilege of enjoying a quart of milk a day.'"

"She replied: 'Yes, even half a pint!'"

"The peace must mean a better standard of living for the masses in the United States and England, but also in India, Russia, China and Latin America. It means a better life in the United States, but also in Germany and Italy and Japan."

He had pointedly this liberty that Mr. Wallace and the thinkers with whom he has surrounded himself are doing. The names of the thinkers are Perkins and Louis H. Bean, former officials and economic advisers in Wallace's former Agriculture Department. Their tendency is to look at the world through farm-eyes. It is the lesson of one-half hour. It is state-wide and unfortunately may last for years.

One reason why we have been forced to renege so many physical blackouts throughout our country is that we have had so many ethical and spiritual blackouts. This is the lesson of history. On that fateful August, 1914, when the world was plunging into World War I, Sir Edward Grey was watching the street lights being put out in London, early in the morning after an all night session in the British Parliament. His words on that occasion are prophetic: "The lights are going out all over Europe." These were the lights of ethical and spiritual vision. Israel, Judah, Assyria, Babylon and the Roman Empire went into physical blackouts because in each case there was an ethical and spiritual blackout. Thus Carl Sandburg rightly says: "The earth is steeped with the exploded bladders of the puffed up."

What a travesty before the throne of God that the political refuse of the Democratic Party refuses to see the consequential relationship between these two blackouts. Whenever our ethical and spiritual insights become blurred, it is only a matter of time

A Bird in the Hand

—By Herb Cook



Letters to the Editor: "Let There Be Light"

Editors, The News:

Columbia had its first blackout on Friday night. This blackout lasted for one-half hour. This blackout was physical. These blackouts over the country are due to a prior blackout which is ethical and spiritual. On Tuesday, May 19, the Rules Committee of the State Democratic Party in refusing to grant the Negro citizen of South Carolina the right to vote in the Democratic Primary announced another blackout, this one as suggested is ethical and spiritual. Nor is it confined to Columbia for the duration of one-half hour. It is state-wide and unfortunately may last for years.

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What a travesty before the throne of God that the political refuse of the Democratic Party refuses to see the consequential relationship between these two blackouts. Whenever our ethical and spiritual insights become blurred, it is only a matter of time

before we are ushered into some Syrian darkness.

The newly-elected president of the Southern Baptist Convention made a passionate plea at the closing session in San Antonio, Texas, for only one "ism" in America and that to be Americanism. He is passing a strain that we can recognize Fascism at such long distances but cannot detect it at home.

A few days ago the Secretary of the Treasury said, "Spending as usual and business as usual for the duration are dangerous." We need to add that "politics" as usual is just as dangerous as usual and un-Christian for the duration. If the Negro is eligible to fight at Pearl Harbor, it would seem that he is also eligible to vote in South Carolina.

It is our fond hope that prophetic voices from the white and Negro pulpit of South Carolina will take this opportunity to help God lift the miasma of ethical and spiritual darkness which blinds us. The Negro is not under any illusions about "salvation through politics." We have two main objects before us: (1) to save the Negro from the political pigsties yet are not "saved." However, the franchise can be no worse for him (the Negro) than it has been for other groups. And there is no group on American soil who deserve such a stigma more than the Negro. Nor shall we allow the stream to be muddied by an appeal to "the reconstruction period." The actual facts of this period in American history are available for those who do not read history with their prejudices. For the unenlightened

TODAY'S BIBLE THOUGHT

A good mother will never desert her son in distress, so be worthy: Standing by the cross of Jesus his mother.—John 19:25.

Side Glances



Not Losing Any Sleep Over Bob

Editors, The News:

Have just read the interesting letter from "Somebody" Bob Reynolds and am inspired by his seemingly worry about the editor of The Charlotte News losing sleep on account of his hatred of him.

In rebuttal, I would like to re-assure Mr. Reynolds and would like to state that in spite of the editor's and at least 80 per cent of the "Somebody" board of editors, we are not losing any sleep on account of it. We know that in the company's near future we will not have to worry about anything Mr. Reynolds does as a publisher because we know that there are enough Senators to stop any anti-English propaganda moves that Mr. Reynolds would like to make.

—JAMES P. HARRILL, Charlotte.

The Meticulous AP Gets It Precisely

Editors, The News:

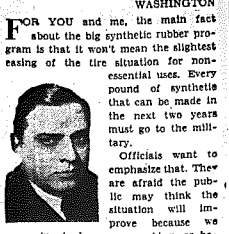
Ten cents still is ten cents to the Associated Press. The Oklahoma City Times points out.

A recent Washington Treasury statement has had a good deal for a correction flashed over the AP wires, being brought to the immediate attention of hurried editors.

Correction: Washington, Treasury statement, 200,226, not 36, cents read \$70,341,300,226, not 36, cents.

No Tires For Public

By Raymond Clapper



FOR YOU and me, the main fact about the big synthetic rubber program is that it won't mean the slightest easing of the tire situation for non-essential uses. Every pound of synthetic that can be made in the next two years must go to the military.

Officials want to emphasize that they are afraid the public may think the situation will improve because we are going to have more rubber, or because efforts are being made to increase gasoline transportation into the East.

The situation won't improve so far as civilians are concerned. Rationing almost certainly will spread throughout the country within a few weeks—not to save gasoline but to save rubber. Gasoline rationing is the best method yet found for reducing the use of automobiles, which is considered imperative.

GOVERNMENT MAY NEED PRIVATE CARS

The Government is trying to make the present stock of automobiles now in private hands last for the duration. No more tires can be supplied and present ones must run through. Furthermore it is easily possible that many private cars will be needed by the Government before the war is over.

For instance, officials here have heard of one emergency war plant, 40 miles or so from the nearest big city, which needs 12,000 passenger automobiles now to haul defense workers from their homes to the plant. Buses and other forms of public conveyance cannot be provided in sufficient quantity. In a similar situation may be overcome without having to appeal to private owners to sell their cars. But others like it will be coming up from now on.

It might be desirable for the Government to begin now buying up automobiles from owners who wish to sell. This would form a defense workers' transportation fund, by which it could assign them in local operating companies for filling gaps in defense plant transportation. I have a car in good condition that they can have. Thousands of people are in the same position. Certainly some two-car families might as well get rid of one car at least. It would be better to put such cars into needed use than to allow them to deteriorate while standing idle.

PRIVATE CAR OUTLOOK IS GRIM EVERYWHERE

No responsible official takes anything but a grim view of private car transportation. Joseph B. Eastman, director of defense transportation, does. He is even worried whether there will be enough rubber to keep buses going. Leon Henderson, in his capacity, with difficulty of civilian rationing, Donald Nelson, the man finally responsible for war production, are in complete agreement.

It isn't a matter of selling your tires. What we are short of is transportation. The tires go with the car and both need to be conserved for imperative use. That is the basic consideration. It applies all over the country, whereas the gasoline shortage arises from oil transportation difficulty in the East.

SYNTHETIC RUBBER PLANTS TAKE TIME TO BUILD

That we can produce synthetic rubber in enormous volume may be taken as a certainty. But time will be required to construct the plants. Some are under construction now. The technical processes are established. The pinch comes in finding the money to build them. Some are such as compressors, and transportation facilities for the manufacture of 1,000,000 tons a year perhaps.

Visitin' Around

In the Good Old Days Before Automobile Accidents

01' Years Ago Item, David Record)

While getting in a busy Sunday afternoon, the horse became frightened and threw William LeGrande over the back of the buggy braining him a little, but not seriously.

Bob Patterson of New Center, was thrown off a mule last Tuesday and suffered a broken collar bone.

Master Gilbert Kurfess, of R. I., who was kicked right by a colt one day last week in getting along nicely at the writing.