

THE CHARLOTTE NEWS

And Evening Chronicle

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TUESDAY, MAY 5, 1942

Stick 'Em Up!

British Beat Japs to Drive In Vichy-French Madagascar

For a second time since the war began the British have beat the Axis to the draw. Last Sunday it was the growing swarm of German "tourists" in Syria that persuaded Churchill to undertake a long and bloody campaign against the near eastern Vichy French. Only by ruthless and forehanded action were the Nazis prevented from setting not only Syria, but Iran and Iraq.

There was a good deal of criticism of the British for letting drive at the French so promptly, but we know now that it was the only thing that could have been done, and 'twere better it were done quickly.

Here was an island that, in enemy hands, could have closed the whole Indian Ocean to the United Nations. It was being "defended" by the forces of Vichy France. A Japanese delegation was there, negotiating for some sort of deal that might well have resembled the capitulation of Indo-China.

The British waited and waited. At length, the Japanese came up to the borders of India. Pierre Laval returned to power in Vichy. It was enough. The British sent ships and men to take and hold Madagascar.

It was an offensive action—not too little—too late defense as in Norway and Crete. All the lessons of the war are explicit on this point. Victory favors the side that moves first; defeat beckons the nation which waits for the enemy to do his worst.

Pot & Kettle

Army Politics, We Daresay, Is No Worse Than Congress

This week's prize for artless and unabashed naivete has already been won, handed down, by Congressman Faddis of Pennsylvania. In support of his proposed amendment to restrain the Army from handing out commissions to civilians before they had gone through the drill, Rep. Faddis allows that favoritism has been shown in some instances.

Do tell, sir!

He also suspects that high ranking commissions have been given to men who lacked the necessary qualifications and experience.

God sir—and we thought all the time that what Clarence Kuesser calls Washington City had been purged of politics for the duration!

In spite of this bitter disillusionment, however, we hold fast to the proposition that when more effective ways and means of preventing favoritism and sinecure are devised, they will originate in Congress and not in the Army.

The Army needs officers and in a hurry. At many an office desk are lieutenants, captains and majors who are incapable of serving in the field. The Army's policy has been to free these men for active service by commissioning qualified civilians to replace them.

Under such a hurry-up plan, there isn't much doubt that politics has been rampant, thick and fast. But, pray tell, where in the government expansion is politics not thriving?

Congress, least of all, would seem qualified to cast the first stone. Indeed, that body would make the war less unpleasant for everybody by sending its own members to the front.

For it to attempt taking over the Army's policy has been to free these men for active service by commissioning qualified civilians to replace them.

Sit And Ride

Standing on Highway Bus Is Inexcusably Dangerous

There were 40 persons aboard the passenger bus that turned over near Dunn Highway. The testimony of investigating officers the vehicle had been overcrowded by its seated-load capacity. Most of the passengers were standing. Standing passengers, as any Duke bus driver knows, are a shifty cargo. They respond en masse to centrifugal force and they don't know it.

It shouldn't have been too much of a surprise to Driver Gilbert Green that when he attempted a left turn, the bus flipped over on its side, injuring some seventeen of the passengers. The wonder is that more buses don't turn over. A motorist driving from safety to Charlotte Sunday could have counted the less than four buses, all danger-

Alibis—No Planes

WASHINGTON

HEMINGWAY and Hawing over whether the Government should seize the Curtiss-Wright airplane factory at Columbus, Ohio, have been reaching the public prints off and on, in a necessary way, because of the desire of everyone to know what is going on. It should no longer be a military secret that this plant achieved the sensational record of not delivering a single airplane for more than fourteen months after it broke ground. The plant was staged January 20, 1941, and was finished nearly a year ago in the middle of June. Yet the first delivery was made only a few weeks ago.

BIG CHRISTENING—BUT NO PRODUCTION

A big christening was held last Dec. 4, for what was supposed to be the first plane off the line. Deliveries were supposed to have started then.

Pictures were taken and newspaper stories widely circulated. Sure then the only matters about which there has been any publicity have been the accusations and denials that a slowdown existed there.

The christened plane was actually only a test model. After the cameras were taken away and the newspapermen had gone, weights were dropped upon its wings, etc., to determine its durability. It was wrecked in the process, and actual deliveries did not start until about five months later.

Now, there may be disputes as to who is to blame, but there can be no denial of these facts. Among the explanations which are no doubt valid, are that the personnel in the plant was 92 per cent new to the aviation industry; that the plant itself was likewise new; that the company had to do experimental designing and proving, as well as producing, etc.

BAD MORALE, SLOWDOWN CHARGED

Other charges that have been made, however, are:

That morale in the plant has been low; that labor has been in a slowdown; and that neither the management nor the labor seemed able to handle its own end of the business efficiently.

Whether a new naval inspector assigned to the plant will change matters remains to be seen.

Regardless of all that, no one here or in Columbus has been able to cut through this amazing situation and give that plant a record for which it should be proud. So far it has proved more explanations than plans.

STALIN COMES OUT FOR 'FREEDOM AND JUSTICE'

Stalin's speech was addressed to the Red workers, but it sounded like none he ever made before. His was any talk of "the revolution." Absent was any suggestion of his kind of collectivism. It was a speech in the name of "Freedom and Justice."

Moderate also were his demands. He renounced any ambition for empire, and he renounced the "revolution" of his own Ukraine and White Russians, Lithuanians, Latvians, Estonians, and Finnish Karelians.

While this new presentation of Russian purposes may have been a little comforting on the outside world, its main effect will be upon the Russian people themselves. It will drive their minds away from all Red goals toward a new one.

CHINA DELIVERIES WILL BE TOUGH

Mr. Roosevelt will have trouble keeping the Japanese from maintaining his shipment of supplies to China. He was no doubt, speaking of the Chinese, when he said, "I'll be damned, I'll be damned, I'll be damned. He could make it fully efficient only with 100 transport planes, each plane carrying three or four tons. With a round trip a day from India for each plane, it would take 100 planes to make the peak traffic of the Burma Highway. It carried around 15,000 tons a month, although 4,000 of this was for the trucks.

A hundred planes, however, are hard to find. The list of the Chinese were promised 25 but they have not yet received these.

Very little material has been getting into China since the Japs seized Rangoon.

"Hider In His Grave? Stalin In Berlin?"

By S. Burton Heath

"Let me congratulate you with my full heart upon your first issue. It is well that you did it in black and white. . . . It hit the bull's eye with every paragraph. It is a stroke from the shoulder. . . . It speaks the truth."

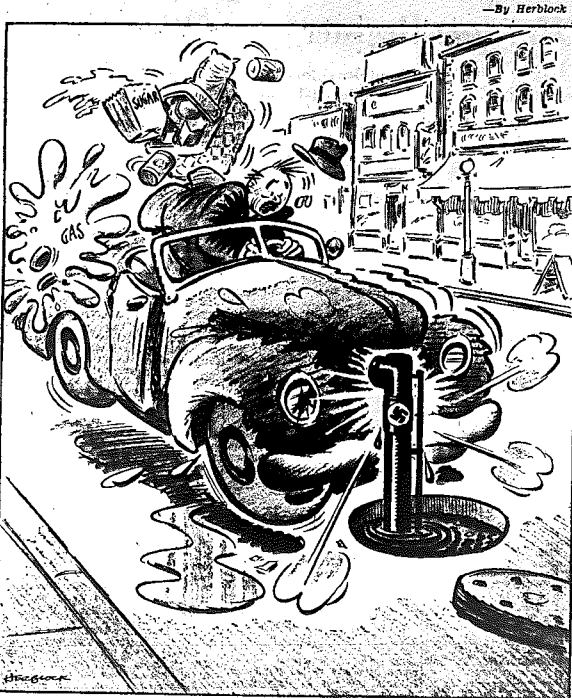
When Gerald L. K. Smith, one-time oil of the late Huey Long, and member of William Dudley Pelley's sedition bill Shirts, announced publicly that Senator Reynolds of North Carolina had written him the above panegyric about his issue of The Cross and the Flag the natural reaction was utter disbelief.

Surely the chairman of the Military Affairs Committee would not write him of such a publication.

"Interference" supporters seek to destroy America's Sovereignty in the Name of Wartime Emergency and Protection of the Civil Liberties of the United States. This is a patriotic offering in this magazine which Senator Reynolds was said to have praised so enthusiastically.

"Will Refugees Take Japs Left Behind?" is a story of the title of another. "Is President Roosevelt Being Used by the Red

Main Street, U. S. A.



"Either Me Or Communism"

By Dorothy Thompson

WASHINGTON

WASHINGTON is wracking its brain to understand what is happening in both Italy and Germany, and is warning about faked internal disturbances and the beginning of a Peace Offensive.

That Italy and Germany want peace is certain. They will never be able to make peace under conditions that an acknowledgment of the now existing status would be. It is for the effect which the Free French News Agency published Thursday is correct, such a peace would amount to a tremendous victory for the Fascist alliance. It would leave Germany the control of the whole of Europe, a free hand in Russia, and a vast empire overseas.

"PEACE" WOULD BE ONLY A BREATHING SPELL

Such a peace is, of course, insupportable, and of course it would only be a breathing space during which Germany could prepare to strike again in two or three years for the conquest of the world. And, of course, it would have huge consequences inside all nations, for the existence in the center of the world of a Fascist bloc embracing half a billion people without an upper hand to all the Fascists in Britain and the Americas. Even the so-called advantages offered, for instance arrangements for trade between the three "empires," would open the world to Fascist penetration. For—as Douglas Miller trenchantly points out—you can't trade in any ordinary way with the Nazi-Fascist set-up, but would have to organize along their lines.

Now this peace offensive is unique, in that it is accompanied by a demonstration, not of strength, but of weakness.

The defeat of Germany in the last winter campaign on the Western front, and the loss of Italy, but it is very real. On some important points, for instance, the German army and the German navy, and the German air force, are now standing where they stood at the end of July 1941. And up to now they have not regained the initiative.

Furthermore, the air superiority of the British appears obvious, and every forecast for the development of air power is on our side. So the

Side Glances



FDR Waits For Public

By Raymond Clapper

WASHINGTON

AGAIN it is worth while asking whether we as American citizens are going to think our problems through realistically.

That is not suggesting a mere academic exercise. President Roosevelt watered down his anti-inflation program because he was not sure that the American public was ready to go as far as some of his advisers felt he ought to go.

He refrained from advocating compulsory savings although important New Dealers around him urged it strongly and are convinced we shall have to come to it. He refrained from advocating a sales tax, although here again some of his most trusted advisers are convinced there must be one. No doubt it will be called a "war consumption tax" when it comes as it certainly will.

HE PREFERS TO WAIT FOR PUBLIC SENTIMENT

It is a good bet that Mr. Roosevelt knows these measures will have to be taken but prefers to allow time for public sentiment to develop. If the President thought public sentiment were ready now to support him he probably would go ahead with the more drastic recommendations. But in this delicate business of steering a whole people through the rough measures required by total war, he can't blame the President for not wanting to strain his leadership beyond the point where the country is ready to back him up.

If we are going to give intelligent support to enable the Government to do what must be done, we shall have to do some intelligent thinking. That requires facing conditions as they are today, not as they were ten years ago. When your economy is dead and you are trying to revive mass consumption, you need to do certain things. When your economy is overstimulated as it is today and you are trying to reduce civilian consumption to make room for war production, then totally different and opposite measures are called for.

This is why some important New Dealers who fought the sales tax for years because it would depress consumption are for it now because we need to depress consumption. Right now some \$28,000,000,000 of additional income is going into wages and salaries—20 per cent of it going to low-income groups. At the same time the production of goods for family use is going down and down. The excess money if allowed to float around would only result in people bidding up prices against one another. Not even the barriers of price control could hold the appetite in check any more than Federal prohibition drinks were able to stop people from drinking.

NEW DEALERS ADAPT POLICIES TO NEW TIMES

The New Dealers who have been right most of the time over the last few years are now rapidly reversing their policies because conditions are reversed. They are trying to adapt their policies to the needs of this day, which is certainly more intelligent than resting along on some old speeches they made when half of the nation's factories and working population were idle.

The fact that the National Association of Manufacturers and other business groups favored a sales tax at a time when it would only have further depressed consumption is no reason for New Dealers opposing it now when they want to depress consumption.

NOW TO GET AT SOME OF THE BIGGEST INCOMES

The classic popular argument against the sales tax is that it bears more heavily on the poor than on the rich. That is its effect without the slightest doubt. The sales tax won't soak the rich. As a substitute for income taxes, which it was during the depression, it is a fraud. But now we can get the rich through the income tax. They pay for us heavily than the poor, proportionately—a third to a half of their incomes while millions are exempt from income tax. That is half of the job and the rates are going up some more, as they should. The other half of the job is to get at the expanding buying power now going into the lower income groups. Congress shows no signs of drastic lowering of income-tax exemptions. The only practical way left to get at this money is through sales tax, new, and compulsory savings. Five years ago that was a reactionary program. Now it is a New Deal necessity.

Visitin' Around

Nature Notes

(M.L. Moriah Items, Monroe Journals)

I didn't know that dirt doblers build their houses this early, but I heard them singing today, like they were building.

Thought it wasn't time for wild geese to pass, but some flew over last night, hawking as if they were really happy.