

THE CHARLOTTE NEWS

And Evening Chronicle

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FRIDAY, JULY 17, 1942

Senility First

Seniority Rule in Congress Leaves Deadwood at Top

Because every Congressman is sure that if he lives long enough, and continues to be elected, he will one day head some committee, the out-moded seniority rule continues as one of the evils of our Government. The danger it brings us is clearly apparent in a recent statement by Representative Andrew Jackson May of Kentucky.

Rep. May, in a moment of inspiration, gave public utterance to his belief that the war was to be a short one, that soon America could return to peace-time ways. Such a statement might not have been damaging had it come from the average Congressman. It just so happens that May is chairman of the House Military Affairs Committee, and throughout the country his word was taken as that of a military expert, which he is not.

Field Reversed

Football, It Turns Out, Needs Wallace Wade

When Major Wallace Wade and his commanding officer at Fort Bragg announced some weeks ago that the crack Duke football coach would stick to Army duties this year and not leave to take over a service team, we cheered. Today, we take it all back, down to the last cheer. Major Wade and his old enemy, Colonel Bob Neyland, we note from the sports pages, will steer an Army team through an eight-game schedule this fall against all comers, including professional teams.

The changed orders, apparently, came from higher up in Army circles, and the action leaves us no particular reason to criticize. The military, we trust, knows what it's about, and if the value of soldier morale stemming from a winning football team outweighs the value of keeping Wade and Neyland hard at work, good enough.

A New Weapon

The Bomber-Fighter Staves Off Rommel in the Desert

Bleatily, almost, the first really new weapon of this war has come into being, and without any formal fanfare of publicity has gone about the business of vital battle. The fighter-bomber, a makeshift as its name implies, has become the one answer to German's Stukas, and to dispersal of ground forces and communications lines. In the heat of the North African campaign, the improvised all-purpose plane has proved its worth.

Grasshoppers

Eastern Families Are Deaf To Warning of Oil Famine

Oil-burning families of the Pastors states are in dire need of a new P. Hevers. There have been warnings, but not believe what they hear. To them, apparently, the Winter is still very far away—and by that time, who knows, the war may be better for us. There has been, in short, no conversion from fuel oil heating units to coal burners.

Despite repeated notices from the Government, the estimated one and a quarter million homes in the area from New England to Maryland now using oil heat are unchanged. In a survey of 750 fuel dealers, an average of only five families per dealer had purchased coal stoves for conversion.

statement from the Government including specific information on the supply prospects for the Winter. It is clear there is great chance in the next few months, many Easterners will feel the chill this Winter, while the rest of the country, unrationed, warms as usual. This time, it will serve 'em right.

Play Of The Year

War Department Never Heard Of Elections!

Many a barrier to the easy progress of the war effort will not be removed until the coming of elections. That, we believe, cannot be denied in face of evidence offered by many string-haltered issues at hand. Offhand, however, we can't think of any election-play which we regard with more distaste than that one which has delayed Army payments to dependents until two days before Congressional elections.

Our Washington correspondent, Paul Mallon, whom we regard as an exceptionally able newsmen, has set forth the issue plainly in one of his studied, mirror-clear dispatches:

It will now gild for dependents in the armed services next Nov. 2, the day before election. On that pecuniarily limited occasion, around \$325,000,000 of held-up allowances will be showered out of the clouds here in payments to wives, children, fathers and mothers. No payments will be made until then.

The War Department says it never heard of the election which is to occur Nov. 2. It says it has no business proceeding—keeping a straight face please—back-keeping and investigating why the money is not being paid out precisely that moment from June 1, the date from which the allowances are to be paid.

A tremendous amount of administrative labor and bookkeeping is no doubt necessary to get such a vast system going. The most possible and still unexplained phase of the matter is, why payments are not to be made as cash as are completed in the course of the month, but are to be held up for one great lump sum payment of five months' arrears just before the vote on the polls to elect a new Congress?

The inhuman aspect of the matter is that the dependents are assumed to be needy, else the payment would not be made. These are not gratuities, but are for subsistence. How the dependents will live until two days before election, is not quite clear.

The scale of basic allowances: a dependent wife, \$50 (the Government gives \$28, the soldier \$22) for one child, \$20; for each additional child of dependent, \$10 and other relatives, \$5. The maximum payment is \$112 per month. We never expect to hear this move explained or defended, except in the way Mallon boils it down as a tremendous wangling of political power, perpetuated yearly in the hour of national peril.

A Soldier's Letter Home

We're writing this short letter, And every word is true, Don't look away, Draft Dodger, For it's addressed to you.

You feel at ease, in no danger, Back to the old home town, You cook up your pillful stories, So the draft board will turn you down.

You never think of the real men, There are three days by day, You just think of their girlfriends, That you get while they're away.

You sit at home and read your paper, You think of the boys in the line, You think of the boys in the line, You think of the boys in the line.

Fun With The New Yorker

All Is Not Grim War

HOLLYWOOD, June 3.—(AP)—A daughter, weighing 1 pounds 14 ounces, was born Monday to Mrs. Johnny "Triscumler," wife of the movie actor. They named her Wendy Ann. Mrs. Weismuller is the Hawaiian singer from the non-professional—Theater Traveled. Hurrah for her!

Platform Of The People

A New Kind Of Equality

Editors, The News: It has been with much care that I have studied your editorial in the issue of Tuesday, June 26, entitled "Opening Gun," and I must confess that I could not help but make an answer to it, and although I have always been (and still am, except in this instance) one who has sworn by your editorial news. I am forced to confess that I have been disillusioned (?), or perhaps, I have misunderstood your viewpoint, which I hope I have done, for in your editorial you have touched upon the subject of race relations, and it appears to me that you have accused the New Deal Administration of trying to perpetuate social equality upon us.

All I have to say in this brief note is this: The Negro does not want, and has never sought "social" equality with the white group, for, after all, we have our own ideas about "equality," etc. but the ONLY THING the Negro wants, or is interested in, is EQUAL OPPORTUNITY. Equal opportunity to earn a living; equal opportunity to take his place in his Government, as a citizen; the right to share in the job benefits of war, only the economic system, but also that vicious political "spoils" system, which has kept us out of so many places, merely to satisfy some ward-heeler, or his boss.

We are seeking the right to hold jobs, such as newspaper-carriers at the local post office, for which our men have qualified time after time, but never received, because "democracy" was not the back door of the post office. We have had men certified for civil work, but never even received their mail notifying them of their certification. Things like that break down democracy, and make it seem hypocritical. What the Negro wants, can then be put into these words: "THE PRACTICE of democracy." That, and that alone, Negro social equality. We want equal opportunity for citizens in the fullest sense of the word; anything less than that is not democracy, as you know.

So, refrain from the thought that "social equality" is the idea for that is not in our minds one bit, and I, personally, know very few Negroes here, or anywhere else, who want that, and I have covered the nation from coast-to-coast, through the middle, and skirted the ends, and put in many years of hard work among my people, and I think I ought, by now, to know how they feel. You see, I was Chief of the Washington office of the Associated Negro Press, when the New Deal moved in, in January, 1933, and I don't think you're being fair to Governor McNutt, a fine Christian gentleman, when you delouse his thoughts into some other unthought-of channel. Mr. McNutt is merely a champion of Democracy, and if you search his record as Governor of Indiana, you will find the proof. He believes in giving a man a square deal, that's all.

TREZZEVANT W. ANDERSON, Charlotte Office, The Afro-American.

Regards From Davidson

Editors, The News: May we take this opportunity of thanking you for the splendid editorial covering Davidson's current effort for a new education, which appeared in a recent issue of The Charlotte News.

We are keenly aware of the inestimable value of editorial comment of this kind. Even with many of our own alumni a little thought and analysis is necessary to realize that our current objective is in keeping with the urgent needs of our people.

Director of Public Relations and Alumni Secretary, Davidson College.

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All Is Not Grim War

unity leader asks that question. There will be nothing before next Wednesday. As a matter of fact, there is nothing on the program at this time for next week. I know of nothing now that will come on during the week. There will be nothing before Wednesday, and I doubt if there will be anything on either Wednesday or Thursday of next week. Answering the question, I can definitely say there will be nothing before next Wednesday. Of course, there might be requests of a controversial nature where everybody agree. That is, where all the minority members are agreed and the speaker recognizes someone to bring up a matter by unanimous consent, something that is not controversial. There will be nothing controversial, and there will be nothing, before Wednesday of a controversial nature. If you're holding for the remainder of the week, I'll HALLECK. I think the gentleman.

Break Through

By Herblock



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Red Courage Forces

Nazi Slow-Down

WASHINGTON THE Russian method of meeting the blitz has always been to give ground until the attack is spent. Then the Reds customarily move to assault the panicking and exhausted foe with counter attacks. For this and many other reasons, authorities have discounted the direct possibility of recent news from Russia.

For instance, those two salients which the Nazis first drove to the Don were narrow mechanized pushes. They were long slender fingers driven into the Russian position, not a complete wholesale advance on the 200-mile front. It is true they rest the two railroads from Ixtor to Moscow at Voronezh and Rostov and thus succeeded in hindering communications between Timoshenko's southern army and the central army.

But these railroads have been used only for troops. Supplies have always gone from the north by a safer route, around through Stal Ingrad. Furthermore, even if Stalingrad falls and the Volga is cut there the Russians would still have one rail line left to the Caucasus out from Astrakhan straight north.

So while the two handist troop rail-roads were cut at the outset of the drive, supplies were able to move to Timoshenko as usual, and his cause was not irreparably damaged. Furthermore, the thin line of the German advance left Hitler the problem of protecting his flanks as he moved forward, and limited his operations.

At the two heads of the thin salients, Voronezh and Rostov, his troops turned southeast fighting their way down the railroads and the Don River.

The Russian defense along the Don were seriously hampered by the winding nature of the river, and their inability to get back and forth across it. There are ferries in the area, but the German advance left Hitler the problem of protecting his flanks as he moved forward, and limited his operations.

It was clear, also, that if his attack onward from Voronezh could reach the little railroad town of Pokrovno, it would present a much more serious threat to Timoshenko, for there his supply route running around Stalingrad could be cut.

Furthermore, if the Nazi thrust down the Don reached Stalingrad at all speed itself, the vital Volga oil and supply route would be gone and nothing would be left except the Astrakhan route, and that would not necessarily be lost. While the southern army would then be completely cut off, Russian fighting ability in such circumstances is widely respected.

A counterattack by the southern and central armies straight across Hitler's salient to join them again and leave his advance forces surrounded, would still be a possibility.

To win in Russia, Hitler must crush the Russian armies completely and drive them to sea. As was proved, to the surprise of the world, last year, advances in this salient and captures of strategic towns do not necessarily bring decisive results. The fighting is not over, even when the objectives are reached.

No one knows or will even attempt to guess when the power of the German attack will diminish, whether at Luchansk or Kanioukha two points at which it was headed down the railroads at this writing, or whether it will be able to get on to Stalingrad.

It must stop some day and when that day comes, better news from that front may start.

It's No Misnomer.

Fighting France

By Pertinax

WASHINGTON TO WHAT extent the people in the "free zone" of France responded to General Charles De Gaulle's call and commemorated Bastille Day will be known in a few days. Dispatches from Vichy cannot be expected to tell the truth immediately.

Vichy itself, let us not forget it, has been turned into a kind of Kremlin, inhabited by some 40,000 officials where journalists find it very hard to ascertain what goes on inside the country.

Poilus Without Uniforms

During his recent visit to the United States, Prime Minister Winston Churchill told the full story of the rating at St. Waast, on March 28. Several hundred British soldiers had not been able to re-embark in time and were left on the shore. As they went on fighting, part of the local population joined them. Obviously, these people did not believe that British reinforcements were coming, but they were sure that, at other points on the coast, more Commandos were killing Germans. They could not resist their own sentimentality.

Have we not hastily fortified. If such the unprepared Nazis four days to do away with the popular surge which had spread to neighboring areas. Then they mercifully stilled the whole district with reprisals. Needless to say all people caught red-handed were shot. But the cruel reality of the last power went on everywhere in the occupied zone and, all through the month of April, accusations to the tune of some 40 or 50 daily were carried out.

Now, according to General De Gaulle's headquarters, no less than 400,000 political prisoners can be numbered in the whole of France including some 150,000 in the jails and camps of Vichy. The other day, General De Gaulle chose to drop an appeal of "Free France," and to re-establish its movement "Fighting France" because he was convinced that the courageous men who risk their lives saving and undermining the German conquest must be reckoned true soldiers engaged in regular warfare.

He has set himself to the task of linking them with the strategy of the United Nations, of co-ordinating their impulses and initiatives, such a potential contribution to the common cause must not be wasted wantonly.

Side Glances

Dept. of Education

Students in the Institute of Human Relations at Yale have learned that drivers of automobiles with passengers to whom they are related drive faster than drivers with passengers related to them.—Baltimore Gazette.

TODAY'S BIBLE THOUGHT

God will meet us far more than half way: Draw nigh to God and he will draw nigh to you.—James 4:8.

You'd better watch your boy friend when we start playing better football—she's the home wrecker type!

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