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**FRIDAY, AUGUST 7, 1942**

**Quarry Sighted**  
**Truman Barks at the Navy;**  
**Now Someone Must Bite**

Senator Harry Truman of Missouri, that busy little public servant who has been running out in front of his Communist-baiting like a Washington-model Hound of Heaven for all these troubled years, has treed his biggest prey. Speaking in his customary freedom from restraint, he has asked the Navy's Bureau of Ships with a dead-serious charge, for the public to see.

If, as he says, the vital Bureau has been guilty of "negligence or willful misconduct," there is need for action from the high. If, because the Navy has in its brass hats and petty incompetents, Truman charges, the Higgins canoe boat for tank lighters was held up for eight precious months, there should be more than the baying of the blood-suckers.

This occasion is of more moment to the nation than run-of-the-mine kills by the Truman pack. We might still worry on the war with the great waste of money and waste in Army building contracts, though that is not to be overlooked. But, in the case of responsible military bodies, the U. S. must insist upon efficiency and progress to reach a single goal. If the Bureau of Ships is guilty, and investigator Truman has no doubt of that, something should be done.

We will profit little from the expensive system of self-inspection upon which the Truman Committee has been set. If we do not, upon receipt of its findings, take definite action. Too many an investigation is only an investigation, lacking a spelled remedy. In the case of a failure, of course, inaction brings down the threat of deserved ruin.

**Round Won**  
**Death to a Traitor Means**  
**New Hope for Americans**

The Nazis have their answer from the United States in the case of Max Stephan, first man sentenced to death for treason in this country since 1783. Convicted of aiding the Nazi flyer, Hans Peter Krug, to escape, he will be hanged on Friday, November 13. From the solemn sentence pronounced in Michigan, the eight saboteurs and all enemy agents who may follow them will have to take such comfort as they can find.

For the first time authority, civil or military, has spoken the true conviction of the American people. That this man Stephan and all his kind shall die is the will of the nation, and it is well that this is so. It represents the birth of a spirit which, if victory is to be ours, must find its way into every reach of our life and industry. It is, as we see it, the declaration of our national fury.

Stephan, in meeting his end at a rope's end on November's unlucky day, will be not just a man coming to a just fate, for that little life matters little in this context. He will symbolize the enemy as a whole paying a tiny price for having misjudged the character of the United States.

That the traitor dies, indeed, means a German sacrifice to our own national good; his death, and our recognition of a new, firmer, stand, will help to crystallize and unify our lands. It is our hope, Stephan, hearer, sentence, and only that he was not guilty of treason. He had assumed, apparently, that the fact that he had only given aid and comfort to the enemy would save him. In a land where technicalities of the law have built means of protection for all kinds of men, time and purpose so changed things that Hitler's man Stephan was forced to pay in the scale to which his old-countrymen are accustomed back home.

As enemies, America and Germany, in this case, actually came to a meeting of the minds. Today, after Stephan's death, we will stand against the Nazis at considerably less a disadvantage.

**Quote, Misquote**  
**Talmadge Missed the Point**  
**Of Negro Education**

It may be a point of minor importance, but Gene Talmadge has now offered Georgia voters pointed evidence that his entire campaign for re-election as Governor is hinged upon a false premise. The Negro educational problem, Talmadge-fanned in his state, had been all along a quite different problem from the one he has been busily presenting. He proved it himself in paid newspaper advertisements showing a photostatic copy of an article printed in 1939.

The story, we chronicle briefly, quotes Dr. Harmon Caldwell, president of the International Association of Negro Universities. Caldwell warned them, plainly enough, that the growing problem was upon the entire South, and must be handled at once:

"We must do something quickly. Already the University of Georgia has received applications for admission from 100 Negroes, and I understand a man anxious to force the University of Tennessee to admit six Negroes, four to its graduate school and two to its law school. Similar situations doubtless exist in other southern states."

Dr. Caldwell, accused by Talmadge as having three years of favoring co-education for Negroes, then offered three solutions: Regional Negro universities, supported by groups of states; expansion of Negro state colleges; financial aid to private Negro colleges. He followed with a discussion of separate schools for Negro and white (meaning, he said, to take it to separate schools in one university), and termed that "an unfortunate idea." Upon that Talmadge hung his tirades.

And either Gene is a man who can't read writing and cannot understand simple statements, or he has chosen deliberately to have taken an expression of his context and to have distorted its meaning to suit his own prejudices and purposes.

Every Southern state should be about the business of equal education for Negroes, even into the higher reaches of colleges and graduate schools. The Supreme Court has already held that if the states did not provide such facilities for Negroes, they would be admitted to state universities. Thus the academic one, and the answer will have to be supplied sooner or later.

The only evident difference between Caldwell's attitude and Talmadge's

**One, Please**  
**The Latest: Buy a Record,**  
**Play It Once, Break It**

At the rate we're going now, we'll never catch the millennium. If the high point of a day's foolishness or the nadir of its futility occur, the only thing the world can offer, tomorrow's successors can always count 'em with the pale pat of insouciance. We have just come, for instance, from the bedside of a citizen who was overcome by the latest interpretation of the musical recording trade.

A veteran of confusion long before J. Caesar Petrillo banned canned music from the air, he was progressing nicely until he received a fatal setback from this announcement: Though canned music is barred for union musicians, it has been made for commercial purposes may be made—if radio stations will guarantee to use them once—then smash 'em.

This side of limbo, he had never expected to hear of such a proposition. To protect the rights of music-making labor, how, you may hear your records will be used for a dozen times a day, if you hear them a dozen times a day, for a week, some suffering soul will have bought 84 records, not one.

By that token, the operators who set the News type might reserve the right to produce words which are guaranteed to be read only once—guaranteed to be shipped to the printer's shop in one shot; clothing might be sold only to one-day wearers. This is a one-time, single-shot affair. Perhaps, soon, we will know one-kiss girls, one-spanking children, the spirit of Petrillo lives, even in the next interpretation of his law.

Our first and last thought, in behalf of our over-shocked friend, is that Petrillo himself might be pleased to just one hour of himself followed by a permanent golden silence.

Having established a reputation for dressing more sensibly in the heated term than man does, the inscrutable sex puts on the pants.

**In A Free Country**  
**The Writers Are Free**

By Paul Mallon

WASHINGTON

DEAR MR. MALLON:

My work brings me in contact with many executives, attorneys and other people, including elevator operators and janitors.

It has been my ambition to get these people set straight as to the confidence and truthfulness being expressed by you and your fellow columnists.

"When I read these various columns, I have confidence in you and your fellow columnists' opinion. Upon being asked to express my feelings on certain subjects, I often times keep some of your ideas in the back of my head."

"However, many of my fellow associates make harsh statements which, at this time show much dissatisfaction with the way many in Washington are doing things."

"They deem the columnists as being told what to write, and say you just write because you are paid to. Most men have no respect for the American press at this time, and accuse the board of censors of misinforming the people."

"Certainly something could be done in defense of our reliable columnists and the American press if you alone could clear this situation up in time by writing an article in defense."

(Signed) CHARLES F. LITZ.

Dear Mr. Litz:

The syndicated columnists are paid a little by each paper, not a lot by one newspaper or client group. I think the smallest number of even newspapers publishing any of the national columnists is about 60. About 250 are publishing my column and these represent every shade of international, economic and political opinion.

I, too, have run into the same criticism which you have encountered.

A letter from a Colorado reader the other day cut me around for writing the editorial viewpoint of his home town paper there which publishes my column. I have never had the pleasure of seeing the paper.

Another correspondent accused me of trying to get all the Democrats kicked out of Congress, because I wrote the facts about Congress delaying the payment to dependent women and children of our fight-

**The Smoking Flax**  
**Rebellion In Europe Needs Our Help**

By Dorothy Thompson

WASHINGTON

TWO small news items that recently appeared induce a chain of speculation. Both came from neutral sources but were taken from the Berlin and Budapest radio. In the one Heinrich Himmler offered two million mark reward for information leading to the arrest of persons who had set fires in Berlin apartment houses. In the other the Hungarian Defense Minister appealed to Hungarian peasants to organize detachments to save the crops which were being set afire by "incendiary balloons."

From two sources therefore, and within a few hours of each other, we hear of outbreaks of incendiarism in the Axis countries of Central Europe.

The Hungarian incendiarism—suggested article policy—makes military sense, for Hungary is the chief granary of Germany. But it is also a country of deeply oppressed and embittered peasants, and any revolt in Hungary will come from them.

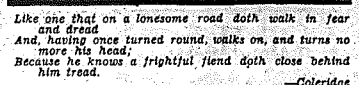
The burning of Berlin apartments, on the other hand, is senseless in any direct military sense. But it occurs in the greatest city in an urban country. German rebellion will originate in the cities.

Let us ask ourselves what this can mean. Who can be doing it? The Berlin award issues from the Gestapo; therewith, the authorities indicate that the fires have political motives.

It is hard to believe they are the work of foreign agents or trained saboteurs. They would go after military objectives. Their activities would be concentrated on railroad communications, industrial plants, storage warehouses and bridges.

It does not look at all like the activity of organized workers. Such workers, trained in trade union discipline, would be warned against isolated deeds that are not part of organized action and have no immediate influence on the war. Furthermore, workers have favorable opportunities for more effective sabotage in the plants where they work.

Without any desire to collect Mr. Himmler's two million marks, logic and some knowledge of the feelings of the masses in Central Europe, leads me to a guess which I think is true. The incendiarism is not important as individuals. They are people in whom a spirit is exploding, that under all the oppression and terror surrounding them can find no effective outlet. It is the spirit that cries: it can't go on like this; some-



Like one that on a lonesome road doth walk in fear and dread, And, having once turned round, looks on, and turns no more his head; Because he knows a frightful fiend doth close behind him tread.

—Coleridge

thing must happen; I am fed up to the eyes; I must do something—anything—and I can't wait for someone to organize it.

A spirit is sweeping Europe, and nothing is more contagious than a revolutionary spirit. It knows nothing about frontiers and nothing about nationalities, nor of conqueror or conquered.

Hitler understands the contagion of revolution. He intended to canalize it and use it. But this has been his most prodigious failure, and in the end it will prove to be a determining factor in the outcome of the war. For the

**Midsummer Chill**  
—By Herbert



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and rebellion in a few. Members in Europe have the same reason for it. In the countries, the troops have released greater possibilities of freedom and have been critical in an organized activity that has been hitherto. The origin and its political results.

The place where the movement is at its start in the whole question of who is winning here or there, and even out against the war itself, and the "incendiaries" in this regard.

Now, this seems to be very important. Such a change of opinion—of a kind of a change—may be necessary. It is a kind of a spirit that can be applied in any way, and in the long run, unless contained, it will be a great civilization. It is a violent and unrelenting force.

There is an enormous opportunity in it, for the breaking up of conventionalities has provided the chance immediately to reform. One of the main reasons, I think, for the war, is that it merely offers an opportunity to be seized. A rebellious situation such as this we cannot be left to develop by itself, and it will not develop into any kind of order, but into anarchy.

I am compelled to believe that the picture which the allied authorities—our State Department, foreign offices, and propaganda bureaus for instance—have of Europe is distorted in two ways. The process of disintegration is further advanced than they think, but without nearly as rational an aim as they think. The great movement in this regard for Europe are programmatic and rational. But Europe, on the contrary, is sick.

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**Keynote Willkie**  
**GOP's Chance**

By Raymond Clapper

WASHINGTON

EVEN though Republican politicians may not be overly grateful for it, the advice which Wendell Willkie is giving to his party might, if followed, strengthen both the country and the Republican Party.

What Mr. Willkie has just proposed is to take the basic issues of the war and international co-operation afterward out of the current political campaign. He suggests that the Republican Party throughout the country pledge itself to three principles as follows:

First, that the United States must fight this war in unison with other countries until the last vestige of totalitarianism and aggression is destroyed. Second, that we follow through to victory with no thought of appeasement or compromise, no hope of peace, until complete victory is won. Third, that when the war is over we must set up institutions and methods of international political and economic co-operation, some sort of joint international police force, to prevent a new spawning of military ambitions.

Mr. Willkie hopes that program will be incorporated in all Republican state platforms. He suggests that all candidates for governor, and for the United States Senate and House of Representatives adopt it as a pledge.

Would that make the Republican Party a mere rubber stamp? Mr. Willkie argues the contrary. He feels it would clear the party so that it could make constructive criticism of the war effort, attacking inefficiency, delay, political meddling at Washington, and handling of price control and rationing, without being open to political charges of obstructing the war administration.

Undoubtedly the Democrats will try to catch votes on the war issue if the Republicans leave the slightest opening. Last Winter Ed Flynn, Democratic National Chairman, made the mistake in that direction when he said that only a major military defeat could be a worse blow than the election of a hostile Congress. Later President Roosevelt tried to take the life out of that. But in the climax of a political campaign you can't expect fairness or restraint. The club that Chairman Flynn pointed to will be used by some without scruple, and the club that only a Democrat can uphold the hands of the war President.

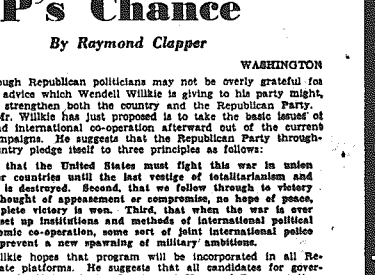
By his hesitant attitude toward the Administration foreign policy before Pearl Harbor, the Republican group in Congress left a good many doubts in the votes and speeches of that period are being hashed over for campaign purposes now.

Many of us have had to change our minds in the last few years. Events have forced it. What a man thought before Pearl Harbor may or may not be a reliable key to his worth as a public man. A good man can be mistaken. This business comes down to something like judging a character witness. You take into consideration not only what he says but you try to see him up beyond that as to whether he can be depended upon. But fair or not, you can't keep pre-Pearl Harbor records out of the campaign. Mr. Willkie's proposal would tend to reduce that phase of campaigning to strictly individual instances, and to establish the Republican Party in the role of loyal opposition.

The overwhelming fact is that this election campaign takes place while we are deep in a hard war. Political division any large fundamental connected with it would have shattering effect on our solidarity at home and on confidence in us abroad. It is desirable to make it clear that no one divides either in support or such points as Mr. Willkie suggests, covering our broad national purposes, would eliminate them from the reach of Democratic campaigners, and send all the campaign back to matters that can be more usefully debated.

The principle of democracy would gain new vindication if it were possible for us to go through a nation-wide campaign this year maintaining unity on the deep questions and at the same time free debate and choice regarding the men we wish to trust with responsibility.

**Side Glances**



"If I was sure she had on leg makeup rather than hose, I'd certainly tell her how disagreeable I think it is!"

**Side Glances**

The idea that the Government tells us what to write and pays for it therefore cannot be generally true. No columnist that I know of, submit his articles to either by the Government or by some invisible parties, but they did not last very long.

You can see from the manner in which the columnists work and are paid that they can not attempt to present the editorial judgment of their papers. It is physically impossible to obtain or read most any papers. I have never seen most of my papers.

The Government cannot be said to control more than a handful of any newspapers. Therefore, I cannot pay columnists in anything except personal favors, and few successful journalists here want favors that bad. They generally want to see more newspapers and make more money.

The fact that this situation exists in the newspaper business is a great tribute to the American press, the greatest perhaps. In itself it offers incontrovertible proof of the fairness and impartiality of the press as a whole.

It is a fine example of democracy in action and the democracy of the press. The newspapers thus present all viewpoints to their readers, while maintaining their own in their editorials.

The growth of the syndicated column, thus shows conclusively that the American press is not only constitutionally free, but practices freedom.

Yours sincerely,  
PAUL MALLON.