

Money's Worth

By Dick Young

I DON'T know what the toll charges were but whatever the amount the money was well spent when Mayor Currie telephoned Washington and got the head man of the War Production Board's salvage section for a frank discussion of the ramifications of rail removal controversy. The City Government had been receiving much too much unfavorable publicity and was being put in a bad light by the local WPB representative. But when Mayor Currie communicated with the Washington official who could speak with authority and thereupon presented the City's side the matter was immediately cleared.

And the City Government was entirely within its rights in demanding that some provision be made to safeguard it against any claims for damages that might arise as the result of tearing up the street pavement and taking out the abandoned street car tracks. As the Mayor explained, the governing body has no legal authority to make expenditure of public funds for purchase of an indemnity bond and it has no legal grounds for the risk of further expenditures should a claim be substantiated and the Government held liable for some injury or damage.

When this was explained to the WPB official, he readily understood the situation and agreement was reached to prepare a resolution, granting the Metal Reserve Co. a Federal subsidiary, permission to take up the rails.

Members of the City Council are just as patriotic and just as anxious as the next one to aid and assist the war effort and they never had any intention of delaying for one moment, unnecessarily, the Federal Government's plan to salvage street rails. But they realized their obligation to the taxpayers of Charlotte and they are sworn to discharge that obligation to the best of their ability. And when they insisted on some guarantee that the City would be protected from any damage claim that might result from the project they were merely performing their duty as they were sworn to do.

The Duke Power Co. has outlined a program of bus line extensions and alterations that will greatly expand its transportation service. Of course, there will be a few who will object to having a bus taken from in front of their door but thousands of others will be benefited by far outweigh the few objections. It seems to me the Duke officials have done a swell job for Charlotte and its citizens, who under the new program should enjoy about the best transit service in this part of the country.

Survey Of Our War

By Raymond Clapper

STRIPPED of wishful thinking, the best realistic size-up that I can get around here run both good and bad, about as follows:

Russia: Information beyond press dispatches is rather meager. Those best informed rather expect Russia to dig in behind the Volga. Whether Russia has strength for a real counter attack is the biggest unknown quantity. If so, Hitler may expect a heavily toward Winter, if not, then he gets Caucasus oil, and Russia not only out of oil but out of important food resources, and comes close to isolating her from Allied supplies. Jumping to conclusions either way is not recommended yet.

India: Trouble is feared. The Congress Party has given the British virtually an ultimatum to get out of India. London is adamant and ready for a showdown. Gandhi may call for a general strike and civil disobedience, in which case an attempt to suppress this by force probably would be made. Japan has been preparing to take advantage of such a situation.

Rept: Allied opportunity may slip away rapidly, as Rommel is being repudiated for a new push toward Alexandria. Some restiveness exists here because opportunity is not being seized while it lasts.

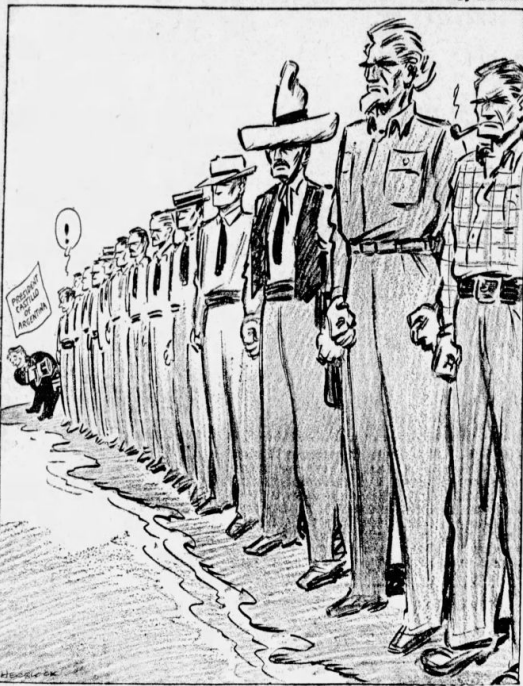
Japan: The enemy has suffered considerable attrition in the Pacific, in losses of aircraft carriers, destroyers and much merchant shipping, possibly 20 to 25 percent. While the attrition is helpful and our naval air strength maintains a steady, any real turn in the Pacific war probably is some time away, although certain to come.

The chief purpose such a picture can serve is to emphasize what all informed persons here believe, namely that we have a hard war to fight and that no minor turn in prospect. We have the resources, the production, the armed manpower either in being or in sight, when taken in conjunction with Allied strength, to make victory mathematically certain, provided we are brought to bear in time, before our allies are knocked out—that is before Russia is rendered helpless or Britain is destroyed as an Allied base.

Just because victory can be figured mathematically doesn't mean it is certain.

The Western Hemisphere Faces the Axis

—By Herblock



Is America Sick?

Symptoms Of Our Society

By Dorothy Thompson

WASHINGTON

A PERSON may have a little too much sugar in his blood, a little too high a blood pressure, and a heart that shows symptoms of trouble to come and yet worry on for years without manifesting diabetes, sclerosis, or angina pectoris.

He may, provided he is not subjected to extraordinary strain. If he is, his symptoms become violent.

It is so with a society. It indulges its appetites and neglects its symptoms in normal times. "Get rid of Petrolin," "Prosecute grafters," etc. But subjected to an extraordinary test, the symptoms become acute, and then there is a demand that the patient be immediately cured. This was an extraordinary strain: it is a test of all living societies. And in the test we are finding out that we have been sick—for a long time.

The daily papers are full of symptoms, of which we are now becoming alarmingly aware. So we call for specialists. But what the body social needs at this moment is not specialists but good diagnosticians, who will look at the patient as a whole.

Reading the newspapers is like reading a clinical chart. U. S. Uncovers Thieves Under War Contracts; "Black Market in Steel Charged by Higgins' Son"; "Fle Federal Suit to Enjoin Petrolin"; "Pellei on Slaves Says in Paris."

All these things now, suddenly, attract universal attention. They menace our war morale. They must be cured. But the diseases indicated by these symptoms in the body social have been here all the time.

Now—to continue the metaphor for a moment—the reaction of most of us to the realization that that our society is ill, is to go for a series of surgical treatments. "Get rid of Petrolin," "Prosecute grafters," etc. This is all very well, but surgery is not medicine. It is a desperate resort. True, the situation calls for surgery. I would like to see a death penalty for grafting in war procurements.

A person who steals essential war materials from the people of the United States is a saboteur—and

Platform Of The People

The Salesmen Fire Back

Editors, The News:

In your issue of Aug. 6 a certain Charles N. Hargett, soldier, Headquarters, Charlotte, proceeded to tell how undemocratic the traveling salesman was for trying to make an honest living. Don't know who this party is, but he must have a "C" card, or maybe an "S" card. For his information, a traveling salesman is not one of the house to house canvassers he speaks of.

He further doesn't know what he is talking about if he says "the average merchant can't buy all the goods his store can hold"—there has been during the war effort! Don't you know there is a shortage on everything? What has Donald Nelson been doing as head of WPP?

My company gives me so much merchandise to sell during the month and this must be spread out among the dealers I see during the month if any dealer makes the sale. I don't demand that the salesman for an ok. If the dealer orders more than his share, his order is reduced.

Mr. Hargett says we'd be worth more to our glorious country if we'd use less gasoline and more overalls and uniforms. Well, for his information, there are plenty traveling salesmen in addition to serving their country in more ways than being in a uniform. In my own particular work, in addition to calling on Post Exchanges and rendering a health service to all men in the service, I also sell product, the manufacture of which is the means of securing vital goods for the war effort.

Last month, through my

sales of this product, sufficient gasoline was produced to make 3,000 pounds of dynamite. I don't know if this party is a contributor to the war isn't much, but there is a campaign on to save fats from the kitchen to make glycerine.

Maybe the traveling salesman who gives 10 or 15 percent of his earnings every week for war bonds doesn't amount to much. Let's see, 500,000 salesmen on the Atlantic Seaboard average weekly pay is \$75. 10 percent is \$7.50. If they all bought bonds that would amount to \$3,750,000 per week. Let's be conservative, since Mr. Hargett wants to conserve gas and tires, and say only half of them were patriotic enough to buy bonds. Isn't \$1,875,000 a week still a pretty stable sum—or \$97,500,000 per year?

Maybe the Government doesn't need any more to buy guns and tanks, maybe the salesman doesn't need any gas and tires to earn a living, maybe there's a shortage around somewhere, who knows? Maybe Mr. Hargett knows, or does he have plenty of gas and tires?

Charlotte, N. C.

What's Hargett's Selling Secret?

Editors, The News:

In answer to Mr. Charles Hargett's letter, I wish to inform him that, being a soldier or what not, he is not in a position to criticize salesmen and their needs. After all, we need a home and something to eat. Mothers and fathers of soldiers are supplied by one of us boys. The Government

doesn't furnish our food, clothes, shoes or a place to sleep. We work for it, and how.

Why should Jim Smith get four gallons of gas per week for pleasure driving, when I don't get enough to last me one week out of every four.

When Hargett says salesmen, he is picking on several thousand legitimate business men in North Carolina and the U. S. as a whole, and I think he must have been writing just in fun.

Please have him explain.

E. W. DELANEY.

Charlotte, N. C.

Visitin' Round

Oh, Well, Some Folks'll

Anything For Variety

(Group V's "Visitin' Round" Musical News Record)

Mr. Clemet Crow was home over the week-end.

How's That Again?

(North Carolina Hustler)

The big Irish potato crop in Wilkes this year—judging from reports to be largest in years—most county folk will have food to plenty. A colored man told us last Wednesday he gathered fifteen bushels from off a patch while on the highway about three or four lengths a wagon and team.

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--And There Was Light

The Case Against Morganton Falls Into A Pattern for the State's Guidance

It turns out, then, that what Tom P. Jimison wrote about the State Hospital at Morganton has been substantially corroborated by the report of the Governor's Committee, and that his aim of letting the public know about Morganton has been fully achieved.

What Mr. Jimison wrote about the institution, in broad outline, was that it was more of a jail than a hospital for the care of its miserable inmates, a place where food became almost inedible because of the manner in which it was prepared and served, where the medical staff was hardly adequate to the task of attending the bodily-ills of 2,700 persons, much less of curing their psychoses, where low-paid employees sometimes mistreated and generally disdained patients under their care, where the administration was influenced by political considerations.

Almost point by point, the committee's report substantiates this description. The food? "Sufficient quantities of food are served, but there was evidence of too great monotony in diet and preparation, an overabundance of carbohydrates, and far too little in the way of green vegetables, fruits and dairy products."

Inadequacy of the medical staff? The small staff, said the committee, was so overloaded with routine duties that the patients received little more than "inadequate custodial care."

Mistreatment by employees? "The preponderance of testimony" found the committee, "was to the effect that there has been some willful mistreatment of patients, particularly on the disturbed wards."

The administration? Mr. Jimison made no specific charges of mistreatment against the administration, but the sum and substance of his indictment of the hospital was at the same time, necessarily, an indictment of the administration. On that major point the committee made no report of any findings, uttered no condemnations, in all likelihood, intended none. But its recommendation

Thus, then, on a note of rare accomplishment, the first and most baffling phase of a process which started back in January with Mr. Jimison's moving articles, which gathered momentum with the publication of the articles by the young woman, unidentified to the public, who had been a patient at Morganton, which was sped on its way by outraged cries from all over North Carolina, long pent-up in humble persons who once had heard the doors of Morganton close behind them and had felt the chill of that asylum fall on their hearts.

Now the worst is known and the best is plotted out for us in the recommendations for a new Morganton which comprise the hopeful part of the committee's report. The rest is up to the Governor and the Legislature.

Unless Red Army morale has been so weakened that it will be unable to continue resistance of Stalingrad goes and the Caucasus falls, the situation does not make a separate peace an immediate necessity. In the absence of an unbroken reporting from that front, all that can be done here is to withhold military judgment.

While everyone in this country has eagerly wanted a second front every day for weeks and months ago, the date of its starting is not to be selected by commentators, or even, unhappily by Russia, but by the military directors of Britain and the United States, who alone can judge when they have accumulated enough strength to attempt it.

Also, when the news eventually comes that our troops have happened to our convoys en route to Murnank, the public will know how much we have contributed in lives, ships and material to the Russian cause.

No one is justified yet in assuming this country has not done all it could. Britain can answer for herself.

The father replied: "Dear Tom: Nothing ever happens here. Write us a letter after 8:00 P. M. I was asking about you Monday. Now we have to say good-bye."

Between Us Rodents

By General Sir Archibald Wavell

After the last war that unwhomorous race, the Germans, investing the cause of morale, attributed much of the British soldier's staying power to his sense of humor and decided to instill this sense in their own soldiers. Included in their manuals was an order to cultivate it giving as an illustration one of Winston's pictures of "Old Bill" sitting in a huddle with a mouse, a hole in the wall. A new arrival asked, "What made that hole?" "Mice," replied the old soldier.

In the German manual a solemn footnote of explanation is added: "It was not mice, it was a shell!"

The Noncombatants

The New Yorker

"And if we find they have voted 'no' to a new officer, 'then we will demand that they leave the city.'—Los Angeles Examiner

And damn quick, too.

TODAY'S BIBLE THOUGHT

Those who seek material blessings by the hand of the dispenser will suffer the subtraction of all things. God's way of life is to give and receive. The blessings: See ye first the Kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things shall be added unto you.—Matt. 6:33.