

# THE CHARLOTTE NEWS

And Evening Chronicle

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W. C. Dowd, 1865-1927

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WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 2, 1942

## The Slowdown

Draft Policy Must Change To Leave an Army at Home

The day of change is coming, within less than a year, to the policies of Selective Service. At a not-too-distant date our Army will be built up to great strength, and the draft will have to be slowed down. To support any kind of a war effort, the home front will have to be left in sound condition. Elementary?

Few people have thought of the manpower problem in this reverse fashion, but if everyone in the country were drafted into the armed services, we would surely, quickly lose the war. No nation ever won a war of any length without a balance between the working folk back home and the fighting men in the field.

Up to now, under pressure which made it the only logical course, Selective Service has been rushing to draft a powerful army. In many localities, men have been drafted with little or no regard for their physical fitness, their age or dependencies. To maintain sufficient civilian life to keep production and supply going, there must be a dividing line.

Without millions of business men and working men at home to pay taxes and supply food and war material, there would soon be nothing in the United States except the Government, supporting non-productive dependents, gathering no taxes.

So the real objective of Selective Service is not, as one might gather from public utterances of its officials, to draft every able-bodied man in sight. Instead, the aim is to create the vital balance between civilian and military power that any nation must have in this war.

Even the massing of our biggest army in history (foreshadowed as a force of 10,000,000 men) must take that view into consideration. It is, in fact, not even a view. It is a national necessity. Some months ahead, we will meet it.

## Final Shift

Japan Moves a Minister For a Stab at Russia

It was "for personal reasons," Tokyo said, that Foreign Minister Shigenori Togo was removed from the Jap war cabinet. The quickest and easiest conclusion that followed was that the personal question was one between Togo, the Soviet Union and the Japanese troops massed on the Soviet border. Because the last non-military member of the wild-man cabinet was, in effect, the last Jap friend the Russians have seen, moving time was apparently at hand.

The duties of the Foreign Minister, which amount to nothing but the usual except-holding-the-lines-onto-to-Germany-and-planning-the-happy-downfall-of-enemy-nations, below now to General Hideki Tojo. It was more than an ominous change of personnel. It almost certainly set the date of the Japanese struggle.

The Premier is not content to let the occasion pass without a commercial plug for his new developments and subdivisions in the East. "The reconstruction of East Asia," he said, "must be a materialization of Japan's lofty ideals with particular emphasis upon reinforcement of the war capacity of the empire."

To the South, in the Solomons and New Guinea, his war capacity was, indeed, beginning to show the need of reinforcement. In all the conquered lands, his lofty ideals were badly in need of a little materialization. It was a last move, this shift from Togo to Tojo. To remove the minister from embarrassment he had wanted the Japanese neutrality pact, he was plunged out of sight.

The transfer of important troop units from China became more obviously a shift toward the North, but it did not indicate a falling of Jap strength. The considerable reinforcements Japan attempted to pump into the Solomons indicated that, at least temporarily, she can fight on all fronts. Fighting on the North may be more difficult than Japan would like. With the first thrust, the way would be open for the basing of American troops and bombers within striking distance of Japanese industry.

## Last Miles

"Time To Retire" Now Means What It Says

Tom Fesperman's story in *The News* yesterday brought up the tire problem with a bang. Gasoline rationing, he said, with all the scramble for A, B and C cards, had obscured the tightening of the rubber shortage around our commerce. Eligibility for tires no longer counted. You had to be, beyond eligibility, an "essential" user, but even then you stood no chance to get new tires.

You had to be "top essential" and then had to be content with scraps as long as your tires had a carcass to them. Mecklenburg's allowance for first-grade passenger tires for September was — 50. Not tires for 50 cars; 50 tires, or enough to outfit a dozen vehicles. At this rate, which is expected to diminish, the end of the road is already in sight for passenger cars which are used commercially for any except the most essential purposes, such as by doctors, ministers, police officers and the like. The same thing is true of trucks, some of which have already been taken off the eligibility list and are rolling now on the last rubber that will be allowed them.

It is a serious situation which will become more acute as time goes on. No miracles need be looked for, nor, apparently, any incisive action by the Administration, which has chosen to put pleasure motoring before the business of the country and even now indulges, in all save the seventeen states wherein gasoline is rationed, unlimited driving on the last tires for years to come.

Not even has the Government made a move to commandeer the spares which might well be made to prolong many businesses and services dependent on motor transportation for survival, nor looked for hoarded tires, of which there are bound to be the usual uncomplimentary quota.

Our Government's handling of the rubber scarcity before and after Pearl Harbor has been one of the most inept performances ever staged. Indeed, one would hardly gather from its present attitude and policies that any crisis impended. But local rationing boards will tell you otherwise. Tires, save for restricted pleasure motoring and for purposes essential to public service, are a vanishing species. For some they are already as extinct as the Diplodocus.

## Pep Talk

Goebbels Could Have Used McTigue's Exhortations

It could have been Dr. Goebbels giving a farewell pep talk to a graduating class of saboteurs about to be sent over to practice their art in the United States.

"You men hold the key to the whole steel industry. In four days you can paralyze the whole country. All good Nazis are 100 per cent behind you. Stick to it and I'll see that the Fuehrer himself has them out."

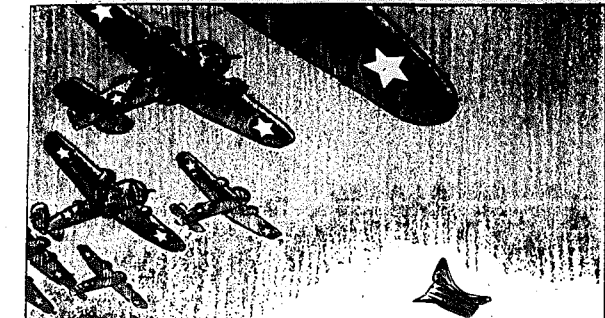
It wasn't Goebbels, however, who uttered the paraphrases quoted above. It was a man whom we must assume to be a good American, one Thomas J. McTigue, regional director of the Construction Workers, Division 50, United Mine Workers of America. (Y.O. It wasn't the Fuehrer whose attention he was pointed to call their deeds; it was John F. Lewis. But the Fuehrer would be delighted to hear of them, and Goebbels would be one of the first to appreciate and commend their efforts in behalf of the Nazi cause.

It's hard business this that took place in Pittsburgh yesterday where a strike to paralyze the steel industry was snapping up; and it's hard business all over the country where similar strikes, organized and disorganized, have been and are taking place without cessation. We are prepared to believe that the great majority of labor, both union and non-union, is as patriotic as the rest of us, and must look with equal shame and forboding on these manifestations of labor *uber alles*. But what are they and we, who are the country, going to do about it? We don't have to be pro-labor or anti-labor to agree that it cannot be tolerated by a nation fighting for its life.

South Seas cannibals have been most cordial to fliers forced down in the midst. However, no smart stranger will lead with his chin by asking "what's cooking?"

## The Ones That Weren't in the Book

—By Herblock



## The Pace Is Swift

There Goes The War

By Raymond Clapper

THIS war has raged with such speed that we are still having trouble adjusting ourselves to its pace.

A few hours after Hitler struck at Poland on Sept. 1, 1939, President Roosevelt held a press conference. He was asked if America could keep out of it. Mr. Roosevelt replied that he not only sincerely hoped so but believed we could. He said every effort would be made by his Administration to keep us out of it.

Then came the stage when Britain was going to finish the job if we would furnish the tools. We were going to produce out of our fantastic abundance and other people would win the war. Finally came the attack on Pearl Harbor which took us in for full-fledged war.

Even then we still thought that our abundant materials would be our chief contribution although not our entire one.

Since then it has become apparent that the Allies will have to lean heavily on American combat forces at sea, in the air and on land. Since then it has become apparent that our vast quantities of raw materials are not without limit. Indeed we have run into those limits. We have run into limits of manpower. Long before we are fully mobilized, we find war production factories severely crippled by the drafting of trained workers. Some lags now are caused by that loss of skilled men. Other lags are caused by shortage of materials.

Actually it is not a shortage of manpower or a shortage of materials. We have plenty of both. But we are not distributing them efficiently.

When England went to war, she did the same thing. She drafted men into the Army without much regard to industrial needs. Then two years later England had to release men from the Army to mine coal, or to go back into war factories. We have some questions of that kind that may have to be decided shortly. We may have to delay some types of industrial worker, hold them in the factories until the times come when they are needed for mechanical

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work in the Army, and then shift them without putting them through the routine of military training.

The thousands of truck and tank repair men, for instance, need little or no military training. They will be doing the same work in the Army that they do in civil life. There may be instances in which such men would contribute more to the war effort by being held at their jobs until the Army in the field has direct need of them at their regular trades. Possibly we could conserve considerable industrial manpower in that way.

Possibly it would enable aircraft factories and shipyards to turn out more work in the next few months—while giving them more time for training women and other help ineligible for military service. We are going to run short of manpower unless it is used skillfully, and war production actually is suffering now from too rapid drafting. One very important producer has been delayed in getting into production largely for that reason.

Similarly with materials. Certain current programs for military equipment are apparently far in excess of needs during the next year. We suppose these were scaled down as that the scarce material could be released for immediate needs. I have heard some illustrations from real life sources that make one think that as some high officials think, that there is room for considerable revision of production schedules to that end.

We laid out our production programs on the assumption that there was no limit to materials or to manpower. Might there not be room now for some new agency or office that could reconcile the real needs of the armed forces with the supply of materials? For instance, it is wise to shut down shipyards while building more trucks this year than they can possibly be any next year. Probably the illustration is clumsy but it suggests the point.

We have a limited amount of cloth and must cut down on that, as at present we are making too many pants and therefore run short of coats. An agency powerful enough to strike balances in such dilemmas may be the answer.

## The Secret Theater

Give Us A New Policy

By Dorothy Thompson

IN the preceding series of articles entitled, "The Secret Theater of the War," I have pleaded for a clarification of our war aims as a prerequisite for effective psychological warfare, and pointed out that the Office of War Information is entrusted to plan a strategy without having a policy.

But there are more profound reasons why we must clarify the basic basis of this war in the field of ideas. For until we know what kind of a war we are fighting, we will continue to be confused by the abundance of information which our critics are fire regarding the organization, or lack of it in Washington. Walter Lippmann, the other day, published a trenchant and unanswerable criticism of the absence of intention between all the branches of government and the "free-wheeling" independent agencies, and advocated the creation of a war cabinet with authority and power.

He is unquestionably right in this, but reorganization of itself will accomplish nothing, unless the leadership at the top, namely the President himself, is prepared to articulate and fight for a clear line in this war, selecting only men around himself who help to that line, and enforcing the discipline of that line upon all his administrative officials.

It is impossible to fight two wars at the same time, and fight either one effectively. We are on the one hand fighting a coalition war along the line of the Atlantic Charter. The ideological basis for this is anti-Fascist, anti-Nazi, anti-imperialist, and for a new international organization of the world for mutual defense and mutual welfare. This line includes the encouragement of occupied countries to anti-Fascist revolutionary change in the name of Freedom and Equality. But not all Americans are waging this war. This is not, for instance, Colonel McCormick's, or Colonel Patterson's, or Mr. E.A. Tamm's, or Mr. C. Smith's, or Senator Nyck, or Senator Reynolds's war.

## Gas And Rubber

# Baruch Is Ready

By Paul Mallon

WASHINGTON THE Baruch Committee has gone far enough to find the rubber shortage is real and the need for conservation is not just an outgrowth of the confused meanderings of Government bureaus on the subject.

A preliminary statement to this effect may be issued by the committee in a few days. It will be followed later on by a meticulous analysis of the situation carrying recommendations as to what should be done.

The preliminary report, however, will open the way for a halter national campaign by the oil companies to educate motorists in rubber conservation. Some authorities are of the opinion that it can get whitecheered national co-operation in limiting speeds to 40 miles an hour, and an earnest conservation program into effect, the most dangerous results of the shortage can be avoided or delayed.

No one here now wants national gas rationing. I have been asking officials and experts why the Government could not take advantage of the closing down of some factories and the unemployment around some cities, like New York, to institute a bigger synthetic rubber production program, devoted to absorbing this idle slack.

Synthetic rubber production authority could be inaugurated by the Government to pursue an affirmative tire producing program. The objections are logical, but not insurmountable. They say synthetic rubber makers must be trained. The unemployed are largely salesmen, or in the unskilled labor class.

They say the existing program requires particular machinery of a character which already has been called into use in the existing program. They say that the cost of producing synthetic rubber is 50,000 tons of soap, 143,000 tons of salt, etc. It is true much is being done now that is not being advertised. The Dow Chemical plant, in Michigan, is proceeding so rapidly it is ready to produce synthetic rubber in January. The companies are now already producing tires out of reclaimed rubber. The Army is being told it cannot use rubber for everything when available substitutes will do just well.

Much criticism has been offered of Government cancellation of the \$110,000,000 Indiana synthetic engineering plant, but it appears the cancellation came about because the Government discovered old gas manufacturing plants in Los Angeles and San Francisco, which could be put in order to produce synthetic rubber for only \$7,000,000.

What the situation notably needs is a single-headed affirmative Government leadership, which is promised that it "can" produce as much as possible and a cessation of the cant, New York, to institute a war policy to the same affirmative ground on many fronts.

Up to now, the Government has been stressing the necessity of getting much more business as possible into the war effort. Other lines have been trimmed, cut, crushed.

This was necessary. The suddenness with which we were plunged into the war requires quick conversion of utmost economic energy into the production of war goods while other lines of business suffered. Correction of defects in this conversion job remains to be accomplished, as the current predicament of WRP on raw materials illustrates. Once these are corrected, the time will have arrived for a new phase of Washington concentration.

## Nothing Sacred

Louisville Courier-Journal

BEFORE CHRISTMAS I asked my little cousin what he wanted Santa Claus to bring him. He gave me a wise look. "I can't believe in Santa Claus—or the Easter rabbit, either," he said. He paused for a moment before he replied: "I don't hardly believe in the Fourth of July."

## Arnall In Armor

Cobb County (Ga.) Times

IT must be disheartening to a man like Talmadge, who is a past master at the art of attacking the character of those who oppose him, to find that for once in his lifetime he is up against the real thing in Ellis Arnall, whose character, honesty and integrity are such that he can't find any way to strike at him.

No wonder Gene directs his attacks against everything else under that sun in an effort to confuse and distract the public mind from his true opposition—a real gentleman by the name of Ellis Arnall.

As a young man who has lived a clean life, who has always been trying to do the right thing, who has always conducted himself with uprightness, whose ideals are high, whose devotion to Georgia is deep rooted in his heart and soul, Ellis Arnall stands forth clothed in such an impenetrable armor, that Gene Talmadge and all his massed artillery of character assassins cannot touch him.

Ellis Arnall comes to the people with clean hands, a clean mind and a clean heart. It is refreshing to decent people to have a candidate of this type.

One has only to be around Ellis Arnall a short while before he learns to know that he is a man of honor and of the principles in whose blood is bred the soul of justice and decency.



## Today's Bible Verse

He is jealous only for our safety and happiness, God can get along without any praise from us, but a divided allegiance he knows is ruinous to us. / *1st Cor. 13: 4-6* thy God are a jealous God.—Exodus 20:5

## Visitin' Round

Where'd You Stay That Hospital War? (Lory, Item, Staveville Daily) Miss Eugenia Weigh had to go the hospital last week to see a bit of the much better

"Remember that expensive necklace your brother bought me when he got his first job? Well, he hasn't changed a bit—look at the lovely grass skirt he sent me from Hawaii!"