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And Evening Chronicle

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A Victory

Big Hospital Appropriation Cheering, but Not Final

The message of Governor Broughton's Advisory Budget Commission to the General Assembly recommending an increase of more than \$1,000,000 for the State mental institutions brought the long campaign in behalf of North Carolina's neglected wards at Morganton near to a climax. Such generous increases for all the hospitals is cheering proof that the Governor intends to press reform as he has in the past. The report represents the fulfillment of his promise to the people.

We read the report with gratification. Since Tom P. Jimison first began the series of articles which shocked the state into action as no previous investigation, private or official, had done, we have held sweeping reform of the State hospital system to be an absolute vital necessity. And one long step toward that reform is to be taken with the increase of appropriations. But money alone will not bring new life and hope to the inmates of Morganton and the other institutions.

As The News has contended from the first, appropriations must be raised to the level of the national average per patient (and the message betters that figure for Morganton and Raleigh); but lack of money has never explained medical inattention, mistreatment, and the lack of human feeling which have existed at Morganton. Those charges are not just charges, but were demonstrated as truths to the satisfaction of the Governor's Board of Health, and they simply cry that the Legislature not stop with offering money alone as a basis for reform.

The Governor has already vastly improved conditions in the institutions (at Morganton in particular), but those improvements plus increased appropriations still are not enough by half. The responsibility for unbearable conditions which have existed rest squarely upon the hospital administration, and Morganton's plight might well not be corrected until it has been cleaned or brought under complete control.

Provisions for postponed permanent improvements, for increased personnel (to the number of 236), and for the most advanced methods of treatment go a long way toward solving the problem, but not all the way. We trust the Legislature will not stop with these gains, not even with the formation of a single board of control, but that it will insist upon medical direction of the highest type, revise our laws for commitment of the insane, and that it will not rest the case of the people of North Carolina until the unfortunates in State hospitals be cared for by the tender law of humanity.

Small Fry

The Time Has Come to Speak Harshly to Hitler's Assaults

Aside from a pair of war declarations and the clinging to a shaky peace, the United States has taken no recognition of Hitler's three potent little allies, Hungary, Rumania and Finland. Yet, in the field of wartime diplomacy, the vassal states offer a remarkable opportunity for us to hasten the breakdown of the military machine of the Third Reich.

The world has given too little thought, apparently, to the importance of the little trio as vital nations in the "C" camp of the enemy. Without their armies, certainly, Hitler could not have fought so long in Russia. With the German Army robbed of, say 30 to 50 divisions, Hitler would have lost numerical superiority in Russia, and his two big offensives would not have been possible. There is no definite knowledge of the number of troops the little Hitler allies have furnished, but the hit is amazing in itself. Rumania alone has sent 23 divisions into battle. And the morale and bravery of the foreign soldiers fighting a German war against a Russia they have no will to fight has been remarkable, especially in face of their reputation as poor soldiers in the first World War.

Hungarians and Rumanians have fought and died in great numbers as a battle among themselves, in order to win favor with Germany for a post-war settlement. Finland, until her front be-

in the campaign against Russia. But, by now, all three nations have lost their taste for the struggle. They have become convinced that Hitler will not dictate the terms of post-war settlement in the Balkans or the North and they are ripe for attention from America.

Barking Dog

One-Man Dies Committee Is Ready for the Junk Heap

The life of the Dies Committee promise to be short, and henceforth it will certainly be hard. Representative Dies, it appears, gave up investigating un-American activities in 1942, and turned exclusively to the un-Dies field. His report for the year brought a stinging rebuke and a denial of faith from Member Jerry Voorhis, and that Committee complaint was louder than the Dies report itself.

Perhaps Dies has not outlived his day as a Congressional bloodhound, but his enemies on all sides are legion, and the House reaction to his coming request for funds to continue his work is likely to be violent. Vice-President Wallace is on record as having said that the effect on American morale would be less damaging if Dies were on the Hitler payroll than if he is the pained expression of a Fascist-minded isolationist caught in the spotlight.

His sweeping charges of disloyalty and treason within the Government have not been substantiated; many have been shown to be absurd figments of the Dies imagination. The only endorsements the Dies Committee articles draw are from men like William Dudley Pelley, Father Coughlin and Fritz Kuhn. So far as we're concerned, the funds hereafter spent by our barking watchdog might be included in the non-essentials we aim to cut out of the budget for 1943.

Omission

Community Property Benefits Would Add to Revenue Bill

Governor Broughton's record-breaking revenue bill, calling for more than \$104,000,000 in taxes in the next biennium, should call forth general approval of the State, regardless of the steadfast stand taken by minority groups. To these special groups favoring suspension of sales tax, income tax or corporation tax, the Governor's message was that these were no times for major revision, either upward or downward; now is the time for conservation of North Carolina's resources, and a tight grip on the status quo, insofar as major taxation is concerned.

And in that connection, we are surprised at the omission of any mention of the Community Property Tax, by which taxpayers of eight states are still saving themselves a good deal of money on Federal taxes, at no loss to the states themselves. The Governor had studied that plan, and commented favorably upon it, but did not see fit to recommend it in this bill. We continue to urge its consideration; that North Carolina taxpayers may be given the advantage of using the money-saving returns so long as they continue to exist with Federal approval.

The retirement of the State from collection of intangibles taxes is to be welcomed, not only because it brings to an end an unprofitable experiment begun in 1937 and kills a raging controversy, but also because it seems to us that local and county governments are entitled to all the revenue to be derived from that source.

Another, and perhaps more important change in the tax machinery act, provides that any property benefits are to be taxed by counties and municipal governments. If it is only a technical change because the Federal Government has a right to permit such taxation, it is still of importance; in Mecklenburg, for example, the Federal Housing Projects will soon be taxable by the City and County.

The Governor's bill, we believe, should be enacted into law in the next session. It is to be hoped that efforts to suspend payment of State income taxes (or giving credit for deduction of Federal income taxes) will fail; that will cost North Carolina a great deal of money, and the big budget will not bear such a loss. For the major sources of revenue, we would leave them as they stand. The status quo will not be upset, however, if community property benefits are passed to the people of North Carolina. That is the one beneficial addition we would leave them as they stand. The status quo will not be upset, however, if community property benefits are passed to the people of North Carolina. That is the one beneficial addition we would leave them as they stand.

Just A Target

Lend-Lease Fire For Hopkins

By Raymond Clapper

WASHINGTON

LEND-LEASE is up for further appropriations to finish out the present fiscal year. Then it will be up again a little later on the question of extending the Lend-Lease Act—Israel, beyond June.

This insures that the Lend-Lease Administration will be subjected to a thorough going over by committees of Congress. The Administrator of Lend-Lease, Edward Stettinius, will carry the burden of explaining and defending the operations, which by now amount to about \$8,000,000,000.

But the real target will be Harry Hopkins. Since Leon Henderson was driven out of the Government by political blackback methods, the heat has been turned on the President's most intimate friend and adviser. The story of the jewels, the emeralds that Lord Beaverbrook was supposed to have presented as a wedding gift to Mrs. Hopkins, has been denied by him as a tale that the Axis likes to have circulated and by Mrs. Hopkins as "baloney" on the ground that she has no emeralds and wasn't given any. At the White House, Secretary Early says Mr. and Mrs. Hopkins are ready to appear before a committee of Congress if an investigation of their personal affairs is desired.

The gossip about the jewels, and the stories about fancy dinner parties, the use of Government limousines for driving to social affairs, and the printing of news pictures showing clearly the license plates of some high officials with low numbers, is giving this winter to wartime Washington an unusually venomous tone.

These personalities are the safety valves of war pressures. It was impossible to get rid of rationing so they got rid of Leon Henderson. A political opposition in trying to justify its existence sees that drastic war measures are necessary so it finds that the men in charge of them are to blame for all of the inconvenience.

Likewise with Lend-Lease. We can't get rid of it. Everybody around here knows it is essential and that it has been a fortunate device for furnishing aid to those who were fighting our enemies. Lend-Lease has solid justification as a measure of national defense. But an effort will be made to show that it has been loosely or unwisely administered, and Harry Hopkins is the natural suspect who is to be worked on, although he is not technically head of the Lend-Lease organization and officially has no place in it.

Mr. Hopkins is chairman of the committee that supervises the fulfillment of schedules under the Russian protocol. But the Russian schedules call for such a large proportion of materials that the servicing of those requirements affects Lend-Lease operations. Because of his position as the White House, Mr. Hopkins inevitably has large influence over Lend-Lease through guidance and counsel sought by Lend-Lease officials.

Most of the Lend-Lease cost will never come back in terms of dollars or even in terms of goods. It is part of the price of winning the war. We are getting some of it back in various ways. Ships are repaired in British shipyards. Arriving American troops are transported and quartered in England. Australia is supplying part of the food for our forces, and both Australia and England are going to help out with replacement uniforms for American troops. So there is something coming back on Lend-Lease, although it is only a fraction of what we are putting out.

Details of Lend-Lease operations can hardly be made public currently. House and Senate committees are entitled to know the whole story confidentially. There is no reason why Lend-Lease officials should hold anything back and there is no reason to think they will.

Unless there is discovered some appalling stupidity or bad judgment involved in the operations, it is not likely that Congress would take the responsibility of refusing to continue that phase of war aid.

Looking Over the Situation

—By Herblock



Angry Congress

More Bark Than Bite

By Samuel Grafton

I don't often venture prophecies, but I am prepared to suggest that the bitter opposition expected of the present Congress will not materialize on the predicted scale. The reason is that the opposition does not know quite what it wants, or where it is going, and it will therefore have difficulties deciding what to ask for and where to go.

Furthermore, as I have suggested before, the retirement of at least part of the opposition is the method of obscurantism, the method of facing several ways at once, as when it declares that the time has come for great personal sacrifice, and also that the time has come for Washington bureaucrats to stop pushing people around.

You cannot write that obscure attitude into bills and pass them. It is all very well to shout on Tuesday that the Administration is not tough enough, and to clamor on Thursday that it fire Leon Henderson for being too tough, but you cannot enter that sort of thing into the statute books. What legal phrases you use, after the first "whereas," will be an enthusiastic admirer of our brave allies, and you can also point out, with fitting gloom, that food is being taken away from Americans for feeding foreigners with. But you can hardly draw that up as a bill either helps our allies, or it hurts them; you can add up whatever is in a bill and strike out the intent, clear as a bell. The clear intention now of the opposition, especially the isolationist opposition, is not to let its intent come clear. Therefore it will not write many bills.

Visitin' Round

So That's News, Is It? (Reddy Cleric Item, Lexington Dispatch)

Mrs. Elmer Young is still up and going.

How'd You Say You Get To The Myers Place? (Reddy Cleric, Lexington Dispatch)

The game is murkier. The obscurantist politician, especially the lower order of isolationist, wishes, precisely, to avoid any such clear showdown.

His game is to recruit Coxey's army, enlisting some Americans because they are opposed to high wages, enlisting the recipients of high wages because they are opposed to a gasoline shortage, enlisting big farmers because they don't like Government credit for small farmers, and enlisting small farmers because they don't like Government credit for big farmers.

And then to lead this vaguely marshaled army into a meaningless, unclear political victory, during the celebration of a holiday of destruction.

That would be too clear a move for the obscurantist strategy, which is the strategy of appealing to everybody's discontents simultaneously, while making the smallest and vaguest request possible.

(And, indeed, a number of the oppositionists have put it into words. "Sit quiet," they have counseled each other, "criticize, but start nothing, and let the Democrats tear each other apart. Then we walk in, in '44." Could there be a clearer statement of the obscurantist approach to politics, the program, negative approach, which capitalizes on the wounds of war, without assuming responsibility for the afflictions of war?)

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Oh, I know now the opposition will call Mr. Roosevelt a sinister enemy of the American way of life, but it will not offer to impeach him, as it should if he is all that it will settle, obscurely, for firing some of his hired help and for the right to use those same unresolved epithets in the election of two years from now. Only a few dreamers of the extreme right and the extreme left has its feverish types, as has the rest of the country, declared for a policy of marking up the New Deal, statute by statute, like an ecclesiastical clerk ripping the pages out of a mail order catalogue in a holiday of destruction.

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Side Glances



"Will you speak to Dad, Mother? Just when I get in the middle of my homework he throws me on by answering those quiz programs out loud!"

State Of The Union

FDR Is Right

By Dorothy Thompson

WASHINGTON
The President's address to the Congress on the State of the Union was the speech of a great war leader, and the most confident and affirming statement from his lips since the beginning of the war. It was on a plane that lifted it above all partisanship. As a factual report of a year of war it did much to put things into correct perspective. For the way to get a true picture of our war effort is by an over-all and comparative view; not by observing the thousand and one glaring defects, but by measuring where we stand now by where we stood a year ago.

And from such a view, the American war effort undoubtedly overshadows every other. Allied or enemy, considering the time into which it has been telescoped.

True, we started out with the greatest industrial potential. But to shift the greatest industry to a war footing is not easier, but harder than to shift a small one. The preparation of the smaller but still great German industry took six years and total dictatorship. We are not a military country, and thus the announcement that we already have a million and half trained troops abroad is stupendous.

Their training, their transfer across the seas, with the immense equipment necessary to modern warfare, the gathering of shipping for such a project, and their convey through submarine-infested seas is so fantastic that Dr. Goebbels has only one answer to the President's report: It is not true.

Again we see America living up to the slogan, "The poor fool didn't know it couldn't be done; he was almost right." Neither Hitler, Goebbels, nor Tojo has ever had the faintest notion of what America is like.

The President's good nature, his admission of error, the generosity of his spirit toward all Americans and all our Allies, is also a cause for confidence, for it is a symptom of his state of mind. When the President is worried he is most irascible—so justly which he shatters with all men to his address to the Congress he was a Happy Warrior. And since he certainly knows the bases for his confidence, the whole country feels more elated.

In projecting the future for America of full employment and much greater security, I believe he will be backed by the overwhelming majority of Americans, even though the applause of Congress seemed a little timid.

Platform Of The People

Can't Be Done

Editors, The News:
These week-ends without pleasure driving will not be so bad as long as we can have them unentirely by such gems of statesmanship as that one that came from our own Representatives, H. I. McDougle this week.

It was to the effect, "I am glad to introduce a bill in the General Assembly next week outlawing drunkenness." Mr. McDougle is making a bid for everlasting fame. Wonder why no one else ever thought of "outlawing drunkenness" before. Still, it may be a good idea. It such a bill were introduced because it would allow the pleasure of writing you another letter next week, and a clipping that is almost certain to appear in The News at some time, that "alleged drunkenness" has been outlawed by Mr. McDougle, about the average increase in crime in Salem, Mass., 300 years ago.

Bible Thought

There is great danger in venturing, but they who lack the courage never get on to happy destination. Courage and Faith.