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And Evening Chronicle

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MONDAY, JANUARY 4, 1943

No Decision

Russian Drives Stun Nazis,
But Fail To Dislodge Them

As General Zhukov's drive clears the littered fields before Stalingrad and the second great Soviet Winter offensive hammers out a new front south line of battle, it becomes apparent that Russia has already accomplished her primary objective of the campaign. She has neutralized German striking power in Europe until Spring. With the necessity for pouring more men and steel into the Eastern Front, Hitler's ability to launch a new offensive becomes limited. It is likely that he will be unable, now, to send armies against Spain or Turkey. Though the Russians have failed again to take a single great fortified German center, their capture of Kozlovsk and their encirclement of Milobrovo are of great significance: the German armies are in danger of the disaster which threatened them last Winter. That disaster failed to materialize, and so, indeed, may this new threat.

Though it has been supposed that the Russian thrusts to the south endangered the entire German hold on the Caucasus, it must be noted that the Nazis have shown no disposition to make a rapid withdrawal—a nod that they, alive to the dangers of severed communication lines, seem content of their ability to hold their major positions.

Both German and Russian communications make frequent mention of the many transport planes used by the Nazis in the south, and that means that, for the first time, an attempt is being made to supply a major operation entirely by air. If the Nazis are successful in this tactic, the Russians are doomed to a repetition of the conditions of last Winter; they may roll so far, but not far enough to endanger the massed Russian invasion.

Thus, though the United Nations may take heart at the continuing Soviet gains, there should be no premature celebrations. This is still a limited offensive, and Russia and her Winter must not be expected to do the job alone. When Spring comes, Britain and the United States must find a way to increase pressure in the west, or the wholesale slaughter of the enemy in the east will go down in the war's history as part of a great but inconclusive action.

Any Price

This War Unlikely To See
Public Scandal Over Profits

Editor Josephus Daniels of the Raleigh News and Observer, still of an inquisitive turn of mind, raised briefly the other day the question of millionaires in wartime. He just wondered, and he had reason.

Early in the war, when American industry turned its full force into production, the President said: "There will be no millionaires out of this war." But recently, rubber, motors and gold mine stocks reached new highs. And because the Government is the purchaser of those products, Editor Josephus saw their new progress as a violation of the Roosevelt rule.

In that category falls many another case: Cleveland's Jack case, Anaconda Wire and Cable, and the renegeated Navy contracts, and the big operations of steel, oil and aluminum monopolies. Perhaps new millionaires are not being made, but old ones must be having a fine day. Both the Government and the people are dedicated to the production of winning the war, regardless of cost, but they have also declared for the limitation of profits.

That present limits are insufficient is proved by the fact that one of the first jobs of the new Congress will be to draft new airtight bills to put ceilings on war profits. That means that those now in force are not doing the job. And when Secretary Frank Knox reports that the renegotiation of Navy contracts will work no great burdens on any companies because all are making important money, there may be occasion for wonder.

According to Secretary Knox, Navy contractors are making spotty profits, but all are making money, and generally at a higher rate than the 1936-39 average. That, of course, is before taxes. But even the stiff new schedule may permit the more fortunate to be assessed because of the great volume

of production by monopolies and near monopolies.

For this war, however, we have a hunch the American people will not be excited by such charges. Now, there is a clearer realization that victory will be worth any price, and that taxes are likely to be heavy enough everywhere to prevent scandalous profits.

Mystery

Doughton Can't See Where
That Year's Taxes Went To

Congressman Doughton, boss of the House Ways and Means Committee, is eager to have Federal taxation put on a pay-as-you-go basis, but isn't satisfied with the Ruml Plan because it would "erase" one year's income taxes and cost the Government many billions. Our Bob-le-in-better position to understand the new principle than his fellow North Carolinians back home, but he isn't the way we get this plan of Dr. Ruml's at all.

It will be impossible to put income tax payments on a current basis unless the clock is moved up one year, or unless double payments are made in one year—which would impose an unbearable burden upon the taxpayer. What Dr. Ruml has in mind, or says he has, is that the Government would not cease to collect taxes for a single year. Payments would immediately begin on 1943 income; and income of 1944 would start next Jan. 1. Congressman Bob wouldn't have lost his revenues. He'd simply be a year ahead.

If income tax payments are not reduced to current basis, enabling the Treasury to collect as the money is earned, trouble is ahead. The time is coming when employment on the present scale and at present rates will shrink. Then large percentages of the people will be without money to discharge their obligations to the Government. In such cases the Treasury stands to lose heavily.

New Leaders

United Nations Pass Axis
Power—And Need It All

The arms and the men of the United Nations, entering their time of greatest power, have already relegated the Axis into a position of secondary military importance; but it remains that the Allied task is the greater, and that its greater Nations tend to balance the scales. We've heard a great deal of talk lately of our growing strength, but not until this week were the figures made public.

The new year opened with some 15,000,000 men serving the United Nations, in field or in camp—excluding China. The German Army, rated at 8,000,000 at its peak, is estimated to have suffered 4,000,000 in casualties. Japan has an army of about 6,000,000 effective. Nor is that all.

London reports that Allied air personnel stands at 5,000,000, that British air power now exceeds that of Germany and Italy combined, and that America alone is now producing more planes than all the Axis powers together.

The layman, thus assured, will be quick to demand the victory, now that we have men and weapons. But numerical superiority means nothing when the enemy enjoys the advantages of strategic position all over the world, when communications and supply lines are longer for the attacker.

Our mounting power means only that the final issue is no longer in doubt. There are still the huge problems of continued production and supply, and the costly use of our strength on the offensive. Numbers are not victory, but only an index of victory.

An astrologer gives Dec. 28 as the date when the Axis will finally cave in—only another busted toy.

Our impression is that more white men are now shot by mistake for deer than by Indians on other days on purpose.

Kurusu, accusing us of starting the war, brings to mind the oldest of the thieves' dodges—the one of bawling "stop thief!" and pointing at the guiltless passerby.

One On God's Side Is A Majority.—WENDELL PHILLIPS
"Yours, Ma'am?"



Danger Zone

Wait For A Free France

By Raymond Clapper

SOME caution may be encountered here with regard to suggestions appearing in dispatches from London that General de Gaulle be placed in charge of the French Government to be set up in Algiers. Evidently the plan is regarded with favor in London, because it was outlined in dispatches following a meeting between Prime Minister Churchill and General de Gaulle.

At first glance the idea is appealing. It is appealing on ideological grounds. General de Gaulle is a fighting Frenchman who struck out from the very first against the Axis. He never surrendered and never collaborated. The British Government took him up and backed him as the rallying standard for the French people.

With Admiral Darlan out of the way, it is suggested that the time has come when Frenchmen can be united under General de Gaulle as head of a French government with its temporary seat at Algiers, pending the time when victory would enable it to move into metropolitan France. Meantime this de Gaulle government would have control over all French colonies that are not in Axis hands. Presumably the legitimate government of France, recognized as the legitimate government, by being recognized as the legitimate government, would take title to the vast amount of frozen French assets held in the United States and elsewhere.

To create a French nation now and set it up in business in Algiers would impose a kind of unity on the French people, and in that sense is a desirable move. On the other hand, it has to be considered that if a French national government were set up in Africa, it would move into France when the Germans were driven out. It would become the government of France.

These constituting the proposed de Gaulle government would have acquired a vested interest in this government and would have consolidated themselves by virtue of being recognized as the legitimate government. They would move into France in an entrenched position.

Platform Of The People

Mr. Daughtry On The Stand

Editors, The News:

Your editorial attack of last Wednesday—titled "The Payoff"—and charging me as city councilman with forcing the appointment of Sanitary Superintendent John Barbee against the will of City Manager R. W. Plack—was more than a parrot-like repetition of previous efforts sponsored by your newspaper to discredit me and the present administration. That I submit, is clearly your privilege.

And, if you can better achieve your aim by distortion of facts—if you can score your point by one-eyed interpretation of reports circulated by the opposition faction whose brand is your appetite—

I cannot deny you the pleasure of your overexaggerated editorial. I can, however, question your ethics and lament your lack of fairness.

In fact, sponsored by me and several of my conferees as one means of relieving a situation existing in the motor transport department—a situation involving mismanagement and political coercion and a scandalous waste of taxpayer's money—I have never had occasion to regret that sponsorship.

Mr. Barbee's management record, which you studiously ignore, while belching unsupported claims of inefficiency, hints of immorality, and declarations of political mismanagement, is written into city ledgers as permanent refutation of your allegations.

WASHINGTON

The American position thus far has been that any arrangements should be temporary, that the people of France should have opportunity at the end of the war to choose their own government, and not be handed a government that had been set by the Allies. The question is whether the people of France would be ready to accept such a government set up in Africa and transferred over after the Germans had been driven out. About that opinions differ. There are those who doubt that such a government would be acceptable.

That's about the line of discussion that is developing—as between those who would set up a French government now under de Gaulle and those who would defer formation of a French government until the end of the war, and by the way, the present arrangement in Africa of military control working through existing local governments on the spot.

My own instincts all go with the de Gaulle people, and my hunch is that the weary, beaten people of France will be ready to welcome the leadership of such a courageous man whose flame of French patriotism never blew out during the storm. Yet there is a lot I don't know about it. Some people whose knowledge and judgment I respect think the Allies ought to be very hesitant about setting up a government for any occupied people at this time, and that we ought to make it a cardinal principle that liberated peoples shall have the chance to choose and set up their own government.

It is all delicate business. Perhaps it is a little like the recent second-front talk. We might be wiser to take it a bit easy for the moment and not kick up too hot an ideological family quarrel.

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World Of Paradox

Strange War

By Samuel Crafton

LAST year was the year in which we began to make rubber out of oil and the Japanese began to make oil out of rubber. The Japanese are using their huge, newly-conquered rubber supplies (ten times as much they need) to make high-octane gasoline. We are using high-octane gasoline which would normally go into high-octane gasoline, and making them into rubber.

And so last year was the year in which both we and the Japanese, by making funny with the hydrocarbon molecule, began to be more self-sufficient. But last year was also the year in which we built the largest and most modern merchant marine we have ever had; shipping is the most successful branch in our production drive. That record fleet is going to hold its supremacy for about ten minutes. This year we are building a still bigger, still more modern merchant marine.

If last year was the beginning of a trend toward American self-sufficiency, it also saw the creation of an American carrier service big enough to take anything you can name from anywhere at all to almost anywhere else.

Last year was the year in which we built something like fifteen years' normal accumulation of machine tools. Those tools will outlast the war. Machine tools enjoy extraordinary long lives; they outlive the goods they make. Cargo ships also have great longevity. So here we are, with tools potent for producing peace-time goods, commodity, for huge portions of the world, and ships in which to carry those goods.

But last year was also the year in which we began to look inward, into the heart of the hydrocarbon molecule, for our raw materials. We are going to come out of this better prepared than ever before, to supply the world, and less in need than ever before of what the world has to sell us.

During war-time we must, and should, overlook these paradoxes. But paradoxes, like machine-tools, outlast the wars which give them birth. The moment peace arrives, each of these war-time paradoxes will become a peace-time paradox, crying in its corner, and demanding attention. And you cannot shut-shut an economic paradox; it is the most unshushable thing in the world. There is nothing in the world more plaintive than the cry of a lonesome machine tool for its customers.

Let me give you another paradox: Our foreign trade was, of course, seriously dislocated last year. Yet it was the year of the greatest export trade in American history. The device was "lease-and-lend" running at the rate of about ten billion dollars a year. And our exported goods were weapons and food for warriors. Yet we sold the war for a minute, and abstracted only its economic elements, you will see at once how large a part of our productivity last year depended on a certain, special form of foreign trade.

The data set forth above is already enough, I imagine, to indicate that the problems involved are not likely to be solved by an after-dinner speech, however amusing, nor by an appeal to return to the good old days, however tender.

If one may be allowed to oversimplify, and who doesn't, the question would seem to be whether we are going to make more and better clothes, and to enjoy more comforts, than ever before. We have to face this prospect like men. We must bear up, under the probability that we shall have to turn some of our population from a diet of patriotic sobriety to a diet of that hated Argentine beef; that we're just going to have to wear good English gloves; that we shall intertempally have to face a future of enjoying the wealth of the world.

However reluctantly, and with whatever storms of tears, we are going to have to learn to accept the good things the world intends to thrust at us. In exchange for that, we shall have to turn some of us, and the others that we shall either have to double our pre-war standard of living, or go hungry.

That might be called the paradox that makes the war make sense.

Tunisian Fields

Ancient Bottleneck

Saturday Evening Post

WHEN our Middle Eastern forces finally return from the sands of North Africa, it is a good bet that some of them will have an all-but-priceless relic or two tucked away in their knapsacks. Their entire present background is littered with the remnants of long-vanished, fabulously wealthy empires.

Troops of the United Nations have marched along the road once trodden by kings and pharaohs, and by the late Roman, "his camel graining under the weight of gold and ivory." They have dug trenches in the valleys where, bringing emeralds and lapis lazuli from the east mines of the Azhar Mountains, ancient traders once rested.

American boys may, unknown to themselves, be fighting over the remains of an array of upward of 25,000 men which, with its arms, armor and baggage train, is said, by some chroniclers, to have disappeared utterly 25 centuries ago.

This was the force sent by the Persian marauder, Cambyses, to loot the temple of Jupiter-Ammon in Egypt in 525 B. C. The army never reached the temple; news got back to Persia, never was seen or heard from again; best guess is that it was swallowed by a sandstorm.

Jupiter-Ammon itself is one of the most interesting sources of speculation. United Nations troops have been encamped near its ruins: In December, 1918, a bomb crater uncovered ancient tombs close by. On the same ground have camped Alexander the Great, Xerxes, Julius Caesar and Omar I.

The Christian Science Monitor

Little, But Busy
THE topography of the Tunisian desert area, where the climatic battle for North Africa is building, is as varied and as colorful as its ancient past.

It was just a few miles east of Tunis that Scipio Africanus in B. C. 146 destroyed Rome's mighty Carthage, and strewn salt upon its site.

It was here that Julius Caesar built a Roman colony to recapture much of the ancient glory of the Barcids' Capital. It was here that General Vandenberg set up the seat of his African Empire.

It was here that the Arabs destroyed the handwork of Carthage and Vandil with fine impartiality.

It was here that a Moslem city sprang up in the early Middle Ages.

It was here that Saint Louis of France led his last crusade. It was here that American naval power freed the Mediterranean from the reign of pirates.

And it is here that the United Nations now seek to build the bridge over which hope and freedom will cross into a captive France.

Side Glances



"It's that way all the time now—we start out playing bridge or gin rummy and the first thing you know he's exclaiming Admiral Halsey's strategy in defeating the Jap Navy at Guadalcanal!"

Visitin' Round

Is There a Doctor In the House?

(Poplar College Item, Lexington Dispatch)

Jeff Coley doesn't seem to improve any at this writing.

She Looked Real Good

(Patterson Grove Item, Cleveland Times)

Mrs. A. P. Falls lost a mule Wednesday.

Well, C. E. Make Up Your Mind

(Pittsburgh Item, North Wilkesboro Newsweek)

C. E. Jenkins, North Wilkesboro, was at the old Tilly place Saturday looking at a calf.

Bible Thought

We must get in the attitude of quietness, and center our thoughts on God before we can come conscious of his presence. Then we know he will strengthen us. Love, be gracious unto us, we have waited for Thee: be Thou faithful unto us every morning.—Isaiah 32:2