

THE CHARLOTTE NEWS

And Evening Chronicle

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Vice Front

The Army Gives Its First Report, And Retires

Yesterday's Army—civilian conference on Charlotte's general defense and vice problems, though it brought forth the first direct official report of conditions from the Army, was not quite satisfying. There was, as a point of fact, no discussion. There was only an Army statement, and a very plain one. The problems were left, as before, squarely in the lap of the City. There is still, we might add, some disagreement as to the true state of affairs.

For example, the report that nearby Morris Field is virtually free of venereal disease infection now; there is the official report from Camp Sutton that there are 131 recent reported cases of venereal disease against only 10 from whites. There is no question but that City officials would do all in its power to follow the Army suggestion, so that the vice and disease problem may be solved, and the eradication of the May Act avoided.

In our opinion, the most valuable suggestion offered was that police officers (which have been extensive) be more closely related to the courts. There was a talking point. The record of City Court since the first of the year is revealing:

A total of 11,960 cases on the docket.

5,244 of them traffic violations and related cases, in which defendants did not appear.

6,716 defendants appeared. 277 were not proffered. 688 were found not guilty. 516 released on prayer for judgment.

A total of 1,681 released (exclusive of hundreds of suspended sentences). 862 defendants prosecuted for prostitution. 841 not diseased. 305 found diseased. 123 of the diseased cases not confined, but treated and left free to ply their trade.

The last item sums up the one biggest gap in the City's effort. Henceforth, Mayor Baxter says, there will be no releases for treatment, but confinement in jail. That should do much to halt the more flagrant violators. The Army's suggestion that a campaign be waged against "procureurs" will be followed. Perhaps that will pay dividends.

The one place where more cooperation might be obtained is in City Court, where convictions might be more frequent, and where confinement in jail would be found to be very effective. The Army, though brief and not inclined on open the matter to discussion, very obviously meant business. If conditions are not so bad as they have been painted, they still are evidently not good enough to satisfy military authority. A new emphasis on police work and court cooperation is the City's answer. If that is not enough, the Army will assume control.

A Secret

Premier Smuts Whispers Of Untold Wonders

Premier Jan Christian Smuts of the Union of South Africa is out with the declaration that the most vital secrets of the conferences at Cairo and Tehran are not out yet, and that what remains untold is vastly more important than the brief announcements read by the world. We hope so.

The Field Marshal adds that these were the most important sessions the world has seen in a century, featuring complete unanimity of purpose among the great powers. Not for a century of centuries, he continues, has such a great conclusion been reached by mankind. He means, we hazard, that there is final agreement on the building of a world order which cannot fail within our generation. We also hope that this is true.

If these things are not true, then the partial reports in the newspapers were in error, for the world has seen in the past a century of centuries, he continues, has such a great conclusion been reached by mankind. He means, we hazard, that there is final agreement on the building of a world order which cannot fail within our generation. We also hope that this is true.

The Merry-Go-Round

By Drew Pearson

WASHINGTON
TWO-PISTED Senator Vandenberg of Michigan, no friend of the Roosevelt Administration, summed up the soldier-vote bill situation when he said that the Eastland substitute would be "practically impossible for absentee military servicemen to vote."

Senator Vandenberg is as well as to fight," concluded Vandenberg.

One thing he had in mind is the fact that most State legislatures are not scheduled to meet next year, and a number will not meet until after elections. Therefore, it is a safe bet that few legislatures would act on the recommendation of the Eastland bill to pass absentee soldiers' vote legislation.

Vandenberg's statement, together with the fight waged by Senator Scott Lucas of Illinois, co-author of the original soldier-vote bill, were among the high points of state-manship in one of the worst decades of democracy so far seen among the so-called legislatures of the United States.

In contrast, there were many low points, one of them stirred up by white-baited Senator James M. Tamm of Delaware, who declared of the Eastland substitute: "If the Senate wants to want the boys to vote, let it say so fearlessly. Let us not use a subterfuge and pretend we are giving them something when we are not."

To this, Senator "Cotton Ed" Smith of South Carolina replied: "Doesn't the Senator believe his State is patriotic enough to call a special session of the legislature to provide for absentee voting for the precious boys to vote?"

Raging with fury, Tamm said back: "Why does the Senator speak so sarcastically by saying 'the precious boys to vote'?"

Smith spluttered in confusion, did not answer the question. Finally replying his comment, he said the emotional lip-lip, the South Carolina asked Tamm if it would be "impossible" to call special sessions of State legislatures. Tamm replied that it would be "impossible" to get the soldiers to vote in accordance with the proposed bill.

One Man
Here are the inside facts behind the Eastland bill. "One Man—Wendell Wilkie," a critical take-off on Wilkie's campaign, is a part of the Stop-Wilkie campaign. The author, C. Nelson Sparks, former Mayor of Akron, Ohio, did most of the writing, but the office of Senator Gerald Rye of North Dakota and a former secretary of Herbert Hoover had a hand in the book's preparation.

Donald W. "Biggie" Mavis, long-shanked, magazine-writer substitute, and no one knows it any better than the Senator from South Carolina.

"If I don't know any such thing," replied Smith modestly.

Then the Senator doesn't know as much as he should know," countered Tamm amid laughter from the galleries.

Note: Only Northern Democrats who voted against a clean-cut voting system for soldiers were Wilkie, Massachusetts, Walsh of New Jersey (Gov. Edw. J. Edwards' new appointee from his own Edw. J. Edwards' Rhode Island's Peter Gerry, a millionaire descendant of the Gerry who signed the Declaration of Independence.

Red Pause

The Big-Three conference is sure to be followed by a lull on the Russian front. Military experts agree that the Red Army's pause to gather strength for the co-ordinated blow against Germany from the east, west, and south.

Weather will play some part in this lull, for Russian winter weather now both in the north and south will be the need to gather forces for the winter drive, since the strike Germany at the same time as the invasion of western Europe, and a possible operation against the Balkans.

The Red Army has advanced so far that lines of supply of stretch thin, and large areas between the fighting front and the bases of supply are ravaged by the sweep of armies. Roads must be built, wires strung, and rail lines changed back from the German to the Russian gauge.

Thus, the Russian forces will be delayed more engineering than fighting in the next few weeks.

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