



THE CHARLOTTE NEWS

And Evening Chronicle

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THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 1943

Appreciation

Men Who Brought U. S. Rubber Plant Here Served City Well

Tonight's annual meeting of the Charlotte Chamber of Commerce will accomplish far more than the honoring of the miracle builders who created the plant in record time, and the officials; it provides also an opportunity for community expression of appreciation for the lasting benefits brought to the city by the huge industrial project, now in operation here.

We are mindful of the time. In the winter of 1942, when the city, as a distribution center for the Carolinas, faced the prospect of a serious decline in the business life of Charlotte, there were no wartime additions to its industrial life in sight, with the exceptions of Morris Field and the Quartermaster Depot—and the need for war industries to prevent a swift decline in the business life of Charlotte was acute.

To that committee of men, working quietly in behalf of the community, thanks are due tonight, as well as to the U. S. Rubber Co., Sanderson and Foster, the miracle builders who created the plant in record time, and the Navy. Without their quiet, persistent efforts, nothing could have been accomplished, and what they accomplished, in short, was this:

They halted, just as it began, a dangerous trend of labor-loss in Charlotte, and turned it in the other direction. The U. S. Rubber plant brought here, one of the largest in the Carolinas, was the largest single industry ever brought to Charlotte. It offered employment to thousands, virtually all of them natives of this section, and steered women into technical jobs so as to minimize the drain on the dwindling State labor pool.

This, then, was no inconsiderable contribution to the city's well-being. In the checking of an unfavorable trend affecting the whole life of Charlotte, a big new industry has also been permanently located here for the future production of civilian commodities. For The News and the thousands of Charlotteans and Carolinians who are receiving and will continue to receive benefits from the plant's operation, we add our voice of appreciation. The task accomplished appears to us a prime example of what may be gained through co-operation between local business men, big industry, and the armed services.

Counter-Attack

The President Insists Upon Salary Limitation Deluxe

New we're off again, chasing the wild goose which the veterans still to be won demand the whole of the nation's strength and will. At the behest of the President, Washington must pause to beat down or accept another challenge to the old order of American Government. For Franklin Roosevelt, in the laboratory of war, is still making the social experiments so dear to his heart, with no possible gains at stake save those accruing from the further breakdown of the accepted U. S. style economy. The President's battles savagely save his \$25,000 salary limitation plan.

It went like this: out of an old Communist Party platform (1928) the idea came. It was sold to CIO, picked up by Mrs. Roosevelt in her travels, and carried straight to the President. It so won his heart that, though Congress killed it in legislative channels, he set it into law by executive order. Now that Congress threatens to rescind the order, the President proposes as a substitute an even more drastic decree that salaries be limited to \$25,000, after \$75,000 a month, the new salary...

order could bring no increase of revenue affected less than 2,000 taxpayers, and in the final analysis actually reduced tax revenues. With the Treasury standing no chance to benefit, there remained only one apparent motive for the President's insistence: he wanted further social reform toward the looming goal of equalizing incomes on a broad plateau. He was thinking, evidently, along the lines of England's Ernest Bevin, who foresees for Britain a day when there will be no more rich men, and no poor ones, either.

Franklin Roosevelt has ever been one to seek greater powers, and though he has left many a bill unacted upon, he has never hesitated to assume others in the absence of an occasion. This fight for salary limitations is another such bid, and it is to be hoped that an aroused Congress will completely block his counter-move.

Going & Coming

Assembly Boosts Spending, Lowers Taxes in a Sneeze

As the General Assembly speeds on toward the end of its session, dealing with heavy dockets in record time, it demonstrates to the State a great need for the formulation of a new fiscal program for North Carolina. In showing its approval of appropriations increased over the recommendations of the Advisory Budget Commission, and at the same time giving it blessing to tax reductions in many fields, the Legislature has shown little concern for the future balancing of the budget, or for the fate of the present cash surplus.

To be sure, there is a great need for increased appropriations in many fields of the State economy, especially in the case of State mental hospitals, but the General Assembly should not be succumbing to pressure from all sides, greedily spreading the net, in showing its approval of appropriations increased here and an increase there, and a tax reduction here and there, to put the State treasury in danger and at least threaten an encore of the dark times of the early thirties.

The News will continue to insist that the State hospitals be given all possible assistance, in fiscal and administrative affairs, that the crimes of North Carolina against its insane wards may be in some measure repaid. We believe that the need for increased appropriations in that case gave the Assembly its most pressing task. The need was plainly to be seen. And in the case of the schools, there is also a great need. An unjust salary scale is to be increased, and only after teachers began leaving the school system in droves. That, aside from answering a human need, was an instrument of self-defense.

But to attempt to improve conditions in a great many State institutions, grant a general wage-raise, and in the same stroke give war relief through tax reductions is to invite disaster for the next biennium. If, under the present system, there was no alternative, then North Carolina must give careful consideration to the adoption of a new system. So far as the Advisory Budget Commission and Governor Broughton are concerned, the lawmakers have gone off the reservation. Within two years, the State will have to pay for that.

How much simpler was the French problem in other days when the searchers for a new man-of-the-hour came up with Aristide Briand, for the twenty-ninth time.

Hon. Japanese spy reports in Toon. Great concern felt in America over infants' health. Everywhere same question are heard. 'Hyah, Babe?'

Of course, it is not true that FDR is the first national leader to be in water in time of war. There was the Father of Our Country, who stood up in the rowboat to Trenton.

Patient China

Help Is On The Way

By Raymond Clapper

WASHINGTON CHINA is essential to our scheme of defeating Japan. Without the co-operation of China any plan for military victory over Japan would be seriously weakened. It is important to us in any arrangement for security in the Pacific after the war.

The extent of our interest in China was reiterated for all time when we refused to set her out to Japan just before Pearl Harbor. We took the risk of war with Japan rather than agree to proposals of Tokyo that would have left China a slave of Japan. We took the side of China not out of a kindness of heart but because the safety of the United States would have been jeopardized by allowing Japan to become supreme in the Orient.

These facts should be sufficient to prove to some of the Chinese who are discouraged that the United States has every interest now and in the future, as it has had in the past, in helping China. They suggest that anything we are not doing for China is not done out of neglect but because we have difficulties to overcome first.

Mme. Chiang Kai-Shek is likely to receive a national ovation, and undoubtedly some in Congress will be moved to demand that more aid go to China. Such suggestions already have been heard during the Lend-Lease hearings, which show pitifully little help to China as compared with England and Russia. There is no reason, however, to allow enthusiasm for our study friends to throw us out of balance. Demands for changes in the program can cause confusion but are not apt to affect the plan.

After Prime Minister Churchill's speech last week in which he said the plan was to defeat Germany first and then turn to Japan, some criticism was heard in this country. President Roosevelt in his address on Lincoln's Birthday, undertook to soften that criticism by saying that our policy toward our Japanese enemies is the same as our...

policy toward our Nazi enemies—a policy of fighting hard on all fronts and winning the war as soon as we can.

But the fact is that we can do little in China until we have sea and land routes in there. We can even do a large-scale bombing job without having ground transportation by which to move in gasoline and bombs. Although bombing must be heavy and persistent to be effective, we will try anyway to do what we can, including such bombing as we can, on the present basis of using air supply lines.

Yet it is clear that real help to China waits, first of all, on the winning of North Africa. The hard days of the war in North Africa are at hand. The Germans are trying some savage tank smashes at us now. People here look for a fairly fast clean-up of Africa, but they expect it will be costly. President Roosevelt said the other night the casualties would be heavy. Secretary of War Stimson also warned us a few days ago to expect heavy casualties. Washington is preparing the country for the price that will have to be paid to win a victory.

The comparatively easy occupation of North Africa has misled many into thinking it would be easy to push the Germans out of Tunisia. We had favorable breaks in going ashore. General Eisenhower almost got to Tunis in the first spring. There is was, almost before his eyes, with only a small number of Axis troops holding it. But the Americans had raced ahead of their supplies by several days and had to wait for them to catch up. During the winter rains began. That ended hope of immediate action. We had to die in, and Germany gained time during which to ferry an army across the Mediterranean. Any chance of getting North Africa without a hard fight vanished forever. Now that hard fight has begun.

No other claims will have priority until the Battle of North Africa is over. That is why China needs to be patient a little while longer.

"I Did It With My Little Hammer and Sickle"

—By Herblock



Ideological Failure

What's Wrong With Nazism?

By Samuel Grafton

NEW YORK We must not let the Germans forget for a minute that their theories are being tried, along with their armies. The Germans have got rid of their Jews, for example, but without getting rid of their troubles. The most obvious irrelevant fact that it having its supreme test given up, Jewish blood has flown from the knives, according to the specifications set down in the Horst Wessel song, and now what? According to the Horst Wessel doctrine, Hitlerland should have been captured; there were no Jews in Germany in a position to keep the Germans from capturing the city. What is going wrong with the mumbo-jumbo?

German armies are being outfitted by compulsory labor, which has been set free of the curse of overtime pay. Some boys, compulse away; but why doesn't it help you more? When France ran into military difficulties, we were treated to 1,000 nights of oratory to the effect that her decline was due to social legislation, the 40-hour week, and to the fact that French men were wearing ear-ear, swollen stockings and had taken to dispersing with blondes at Deauville. I had an ear, now, most anxious to hear the Chicago Tribune, Congressman Hoffman of Michigan and Captain Eddie Rickenbacker explain why Germany's difficulties are due to her social legislation, or to the 40-hour week, or to her wearing of either the blonde variety or the racketeer variety, for there are no labor leaders in Germany. Come now, and let us have the speeches.

To off-the-off, or smoking-car political economists, I say open up now, and tell us about Germany; let us hear why she is in trouble. I am aching for the answers.

A favorite Nazi myth is that German armies were

forced to retreat in 1918 because liberalism and democracy had betrayed the country on the home front, now black reaction is in control on the home front, but German armies are retiring again. It cannot be. How can Germans retreat after having purified their race, after having evolved the mystic of blood and soil, after having established one Reich, one people, one Fuehrer? There are no 'democrats, Marxists and Jews' in control of the German press, you get a bust in the nose if you open your mouth anywhere in Germany, and, yes, German armies are coming faster than in 1918. German soldiers are in the kitchen, not in politics, and, look, it doesn't seem to make any difference. It is astounding.

All the massive irrelevancies of twenty years of reactionary or obscurantist European politics are going up in smoke. And the Jews are dying, and who will be the new Jews to be flayed for the new defeat?

Oh boy, oh boy, oh boy, are the politicians of this earth going to have to talk turkey after this one. We are seeing the climax of the biggest experiment in the history of the world in solving the human society by spitting over the racial left shoulder, by chanting nonsense in the moonshine, by touching the wand of a mystical bond.

Hoarse must be the laughter from now on, when, to any people asking for why to eat, an aspiring politician replies that, why it is easy; put some in prison and sergeant was the answer. Or, perhaps, wipe out the weakest among you; that must be the answer. Or, wait a minute, it's the women, the women, the women, the women. Of course! That solves the whole thing.

Some day we may even be grateful to the German people for having lived on these ideologies for us, for having conducted this experiment in civilization as stupidly on our behalf. In a sense, they have suffered in the name of the world. They have performed in the name of the world. They have suffered the hot-eyed and the feverish, the frustrated and the perverse have, at times, urged even on street-corners in America. The domestic spectators are losing today, too; they are sharing in the retreat.

Quote, Unquote

YOU can have the good old days. I'm perfectly content to be living in the present, even with rationing and the war.

Whether you are a man or a woman, if you are a whole or partially blind, we have a job for you.

Whether you are a man or a woman, if you are a whole or partially blind, we have a job for you.

Side Glances



"The Government won't have to worry about us raising record crops this year—I've got two sons in the Army and I know how they eat!"

Wages & Hours

Britain's Job

THE new minimum 48-hour week requirement may well affect commercial and trade establishments, or factories turning out non-war products, more fundamentally than war manufacturing plants. The latest month for which Government statistics are available is November, 1942. Then the average work-week for 15,000,000 industrial workers was 44 hours. It was 46 in durable goods, 41 in non-durable goods.

In iron and steel the average was 44 hours. In electrical machinery 47 hours. In all other manufacturing, 45 2/3. In non-ferrous metals, 48. In shipbuilding, 48. In aircraft production, 46 1/2. On aircraft engines, 51 1/4. In machine tools, 52 3/4. In textiles, 59 1/2. In printing and publishing, 59 1/2.

During the month some industries were held back by shortage in materials, which by this time may have been largely remedied. In Great Britain the average work-week in war industries is around 56 hours. Except for coal mining, hours of British adult male workers are regulated, not by law, but by union agreements. The tempo of work in Great Britain is frequently slower than in the United States. National law restricts the hours of work for women and for young people of sixteen and seventeen hours to 48 hours a week, except on permission of the Government. In the early part of the war such permission was widely granted.

At the time of Dunkirk, May, 1940, hours were sharply stepped up, commonly averaging 64 a week. In certain cases even 72. But that was a pace which killed, and within several months production fell below the pre-Dunkirk level. There were many industrial accidents and considerable absenteeism. In July the Government recommended an average reduction to 60 hours a week, and fixed an ultimate war aim of 56 hours.

Since 1942, Britain has fixed a minimum of 52 hours for industrial and 46 for clerical workers, exclusive of time for meals. In October the average work in Government plants was 60 for men and 55 for women. Most production is built as when 70 hours a week was worked. Government holidays are held essential to health and morale. Since 1942 two days were commonly granted at Christmas or New Year.

Most union agreements with employers provide for average rates for hours above 48 a week. Often overtime is at time-and-a-half, sometimes for the first several hours, thereafter goes to time-and-a-half, sometimes with an intervening rate of time-and-a-half. The closed shop is uncommon—chiefly because almost all workers join unions voluntarily and almost all employers accept unionism.

With the outbreak of war the French industrial work-week was stepped up to 60 hours. The German was boosted from 46 to 60. Last November President Roosevelt reported that in 1942 the German work-week went up to 70 hours, but that soon after hours reduced production. Later in 1942 the German work-week was reported as 60 hours, industry knows what the happenings in Russia have told us to be ill-fated. Research Report.

Platform Of The People

Fall Of France

Editors, The News:

match the new type of mobility in war that the German forces and which Giraud did not.

Forty-hours-a-week work or 80-hours-a-week work could not change the level of the German defense warfare which Giraud and Gamelin had decided upon.

These are not mere sides to the problem of the fall of France and Giraud is just as far away from the truth as the "Bismarck" is from the truth as "Bismarck" would be "speaking of the left." It is easy for the French Government to blame labor unions and so-called "black" discipline, but it is that same Giraud, co-ordinator who shortly after Hitler's attack on France had been far back as 1933, she decided to call "Votant" and call Giraud.

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The Drummer

RICHMOND COUNTY JOURNAL Oldsters mind the time when the drummer was a mighty man in the land. He was the best dressed man in the field, the smallest town, wore a derby hat, a big gold watch chain stretched across a fancy vest, and snatched the big cigar, and snatched the big cigar, and he was up to the minute on politics.

Drummers filled our hotels in the smaller towns of the country, generally tipped the servants, dined with all the pretty girls, and were the best patrons the livery stables had. They hired horses and hacks to drive out to rural stores with great loads of goods, which contained their samples, and they had the gift of tongue and suave of manner to persuade the country merchant to buy a big order.