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And Evening Chronicle

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Big Pincers

Casablanca and Stalingrad Meant the End for Hitler

In the gigantic squeeze of the Axis between Stalingrad and Casablanca are world-shaking possibilities of victory not yet fully realized in the United States. For the defeat of the German Armies in Russia stems not from a lost battle, occasionally to be expected in war; it is a defeat of such great consequences as to shake the whole German war machine. Defeat of the finest Nazi Army at Stalingrad was in no sense a local operation. That it came, timed with Soviet successes all along the front, was proof that a well-conceived and well-executed offensive had found Hitler vulnerable as he has never been before.

Now, the military situation in the East is fraught with peril for the Germans. In the Leningrad area, a Russian offensive against Finland, linked with an Allied drive at Norway, becomes possible. Defeat in the South presents Germany with grave new problems in Hungary and Rumania, where there are rising protests against Nazi control and the sacrifice of their armies. To these threats, there are but two possible German answers.

Hitler might shorten his lines and begin a delaying action, aiming for obtaining the best peace possible. But the ringing call for Unconditional Surrender at Casablanca made that impossible. The United Nations will negotiate with no Axis agent, Hitler or Hitler successor. So long as a German army exists, the growing might of the Allies will continue to strike. Thus Hitler is forced to call up his last reserves (as he is now doing, class of 15-19-year-olds) and wage a final, desperate campaign to regain his lost military control.

His possibilities in that course, though limited, hold danger for the Allied cause. Desperate, he may launch a new attack in any direction—and is already feverishly fortifying his Continent on all sides. The long-dreaded use of gas, though it promises little gain, may soon appear on a wholesale scale. Apparently cut off from a drive into the Middle East, he may turn to Spain, or direct another attack against England. But, wherever he turns, he will be met with swift, determined opposition.

That, then, is the real importance of Stalingrad and Casablanca; in one, a proud army was annihilated; in another, the last hope of a favorable peace was killed. Entrapped, Hitler must now strike with all the force left at his command. However and wherever the blows fall, they will be met with greater ones. The time of evil is running out.

Cover-Up

Boss Flynn Found Every Reason But the Right One for Failure

It may be, as they say, that Franklin Roosevelt pulled a major political boner in appointing Boss Ed Flynn as Minister to Australia, but the way in which the brawl ended was shrewdly calculated to reflect no discredit upon the President. Indeed, Flynn's little speech as he withdrew his own name from the firing line was an attempt to smear the opposition, whitewash the Administration, and hide his own broken ambitions under the fluttering flag of patriotism.

The last statement, as The Boss reluctantly tore up his ticket to the Southwest Pacific, was something of a masterpiece—or would have been under other circumstances. But Flynn had taken too much of a whipping to get away with any such lofty sentiments. He was like a badly beaten fighter, loudly protesting as his manager threw in the towel. There'll be a national horse laugh at the manner of his withdrawal.

His friends, he said, had assured him he could win confirmation; his friends were either blind to the temper of Congress or incurable Administration optimists. The issue had been in grave doubt from the first, and the Flynn chances diminished as the battle went on. He said that he didn't want his candidacy to become the basis for a partisan political debate—the first time on record, so far as we know, that The Boss had been so concerned with political unity.

He expected solid opposition from the Republicans, he said, as a loyal Democrat. He expected a barrage against his Commander in Chief. No, Flynn himself was not the target of congressional chagrin; it was the President. The country won't swallow that sad farewell, and it won't overlook the fact that Flynn's candidacy was endangered, not only because of Republican opposition, but also because many a Democrat in Congress expressed the desire to keep the ward boss out of Australia.

Samarcand

A Judge Starts an Investigation Of Another "Place of Mystery"

In this time of inventory of the State's institutions, the case of Samarcand is a strange one. Governor Broughton and his Advisory Budget Commission, having surveyed the entire field and presented a new high in requests for appropriations, were startled by the sudden action of a Moore County grand jury calling for investigation of the State Home and Industrial School for Women. There were still more shocks in store.

Last week the Superintendent of Samarcand, "place of mystery," told the joint appropriations committee of the General Assembly that only $4 a year was allotted for clothing a Samarcand girl—and that included shoes. Patched overalls and thin cotton coats were in vogue. She proposed an increase of $800 for clothing and $500 for farm equipment. She was satisfied, she said, with the other appropriations, just as they stood.

Her Board of Trustees disagreed almost violently, in open meeting. No $800 increase would give Samarcand girls sufficient clothing. They should have "a nice dress, a house dress, and a warm coat." And as for the balance of the appropriations, they were too small by far—below past recommendations. The Board didn't understand how Superintendent Grace Robson could be so easily satisfied. And that brought forth another investigation.

Last night a resolution called for the appointment of a commission from the Assembly to investigate Samarcand, and go beyond scanty clothing into the lives Judge Frank Armstrong found so mysterious. As a part of the fine-toothed combing now being given all State-supported institutions, the investigation of Samarcand should be enlightening, and will probably show that North Carolina has been remiss in the discharge of still another responsibility.

Legal Red Tape

It Promises a Four-Year Wait For Court Relief in County

We have complete confidence in the Governor's commission on Judicial Districts, and are satisfied that its members are aware that conditions in Mecklenburg's Superior Court are not to be tolerated. We are also confident that its members (particularly Rep. H. I. McDougle, who co-authored the commission's report) are determined to answer the edict of the State's voters and provide for this County a separate district and a new solicitor.

When we were told some weeks ago that new districts could not be formed until Jan. 1, 1947, and that solicitors now in office must be allowed to complete their four-year terms under the Constitution of North Carolina, we still held hopes that the General Assembly would find a way to bring Mecklenburg's crowded criminal dockets immediate relief. Those hopes are fast disappearing.

The people of the State, by passing an amendment to permit solicitorial change, have indicated that they desired change in Mecklenburg and any other county in need of change. The voters gave no thought to the constitutionality of immediate redistricting; they thought they were rewriting the Constitution at the polls to correct an evil—if they thought at all. They expected no delay.

We do not seek to charge the Governor's commission with the delay of action until 1947, but we would have them explain to the State, and especially to Mecklenburg, just why the needed change cannot be made now. To leave criminal dockets here in the incompetent hands of Solicitor John Carpenter for four more years is to abandon law enforcement in Mecklenburg for an extended period of frustration and inefficiency.

If it be unconstitutional to deprive any elected solicitor of his four-year term, why could not Mecklenburg be given a new solicitor now, and John Carpenter allowed to complete his term in the proposed new district west of the Catawba? The public deserves to be told the simple truth, without the

Let's Be Definite

What Is Unconditional Surrender?

By Dorothy Thompson

WASHINGTON

WHEN the President in his press conference at Casablanca announced that the United Nations war aim toward the Axis was "unconditional surrender," he made a reference to General Grant, who in the American Civil-War had made the same demand on the leaders of the South. General Grant, said the President, was known as "Unconditional Surrender Grant."

The analogy is thought provoking. General Grant was fighting a civil war—not an international war. The issue in that war was the right of the Southern States to secede from the American Union. Slavery was a secondary issue. The basic principle involved was the authority of the Constitution throughout all the states of America. Before General Lee was called on to surrender, the Emancipation Proclamation had already freed the slaves.

There could be not the slightest doubt, on the part of the leaders of the South, as to the exact meaning of "unconditional surrender." It meant that the South rejoin the Union and submit to its Constitution and its laws. It meant that the Southern Confederacy be dissolved, and its parts reintegrated into the United States of America.

Therefore General Lee knew what he was doing when he surrendered "unconditionally." Actually it was not, in essence, an unconditional surrender, for if the conditions were not to be negotiated, the principles governing those conditions were clear.

If one were to pursue this analogy to its logical conclusion, "unconditional surrender" would mean that the nations of the Axis would have to abandon their attempt to secede from the principles of civilization governing the rest of the world, and join the United Nations, for a world governed by law.

But one cannot pursue this analogy to such a logical conclusion because there is no world governed by law and there never has been. Nations are still considered as sovereign bodies; what has been called "international law" is merely agreements or treaties amongst sovereign nations which can be unilaterally denounced, broken, or changed; no force exists, or ever has existed to create, supervise, or enforce any law above nations. And there is no indication in any official utterances of the President or Mr. Churchill that we intend to create such supernational institutions. "Unconditional surrender" in this case, therefore, means surrender without condition of some nations to other nations—not surrender to a Constitution.

There are two factors in such a demand. There is the party upon which it is made and there is the party that makes it.

The demand is made upon the governments and peoples of the Axis. Since unconditional surrender means, according to statements which are official, that the present government of Germany will be displaced and that its members will be tried as war criminals, "unconditional surrender" means, for them, suicide. The terms are therefore impossible of acceptance for the present governments.

But the terms also seem to rule out any possibility of a palace revolution in Germany, at least. Mr. Churchill has apparently modified the terms for Italy, for he has said, "One man and one man alone stands in the way of peace." But any group of Germans, realizing the disaster to Germany, and planning to overthrow the Nazi regime—should such a group exist—will hardly, under these conditions, undertake such a risk and responsibility. A revolution which comes into power only to give away its power the next moment, in an unconditional surrender to other outside powers, does not make sense.

But there is another factor to be considered. Stalin has not demanded "unconditional surrender." Had he done so, the demand would have had a definite meaning for one group of Germans—namely the German Communists. In their minds the analogy approximates that of the American Civil War. In the minds of German Communists, "unconditional surrender" means the total defeat of Fascism, the beginning of the social revolution, and the opportunity to join the Soviet Union, as an integral and equal part of it.

But there is nothing to indicate that "unconditional surrender" to the Western powers means the integration of a democratic Germany, as an equal member of the democratic world.

The demand for "unconditional surrender" imposes a supreme obligation upon those who make it. We are asking the German nation and people to deliver themselves unconditionally into our hands. To consent to that means to divest themselves of all responsibility and place the entire responsibility upon us. The question for us is, therefore: Are we prepared for this responsibility? Do we know what we intend to do with an unconditionally surrendered Germany?

And who is "We?" The President? The State Department? Mr. Churchill?

Again I say that we had better get some principles for the reconstruction of Europe and get them quick. For unconditional surrender, under these conditions, can only come as unconditional breakdown. And unless there are some principles to fill a vacuum, chaos will fill it.

"Speak to Me, Chum!"

—By Herblock

The Time Comes

The Axis Sphere Dwindles

By Raymond Clapper

WASHINGTON

THE German smashup in Russia makes this tenth anniversary of Hitler's black regime quite possibly its last—or almost certainly its next to last. If the Hitler regime lives to be eleven years old, it will be on borrowed time. Just about the most certain thing in the world is that Germany is going to be completely defeated. Just about the most uncertain thing is how soon it will happen.

I keep thinking now of how Napoleon's army disintegrated suddenly after it reached Moscow. The Battle of Borodino on Sept. 7 opened the way into Moscow. By Oct. 20—six weeks later—the French were abandoning Moscow in chaotic retreat. Tolstoy says that after the French victory at Borodino there were no further serious engagements, yet the French army soon ceased to exist as an effective fighting force. Tolstoy explains it partly by saying the Russians did not follow the rules of polite formal warfare—but continued guerrilla fighting after their army had been defeated.

In "War and Peace," Tolstoy describes Russian resistance this way: "The cudgel of the people's war was lifted with all its menacing and majestic strength and with out consulting anyone's tastes or rules and regardless of anything else, it rose and fell with stupid simplicity but consistently, and belabored the French till the whole invasion had perished.

Note, incidentally, that Tolstoy, writing in 1866, referred to that campaign of 1812 as "The People's War," as Woodrow Wilson likewise referred to the First World War.

Moscow in 1812 the finest military machine up to its time broke suddenly under the club of a people's determination. Probably the finest military machine of our time is breaking, too, under the club of a people's determination, for the Russians have put more than bullets, shells and bombs into their great victory. It was more than shells and bombs that saved Leningrad through the long siege of supreme suffering and starvation.

Those unseen weapons of the spirit may have decided the balance as between the arms of Russia and Germany. I read "War and Peace" last Summer as Rommel was racing toward Alexandria and Suez and as the Germany army in Russia was cutting its way toward Stalingrad. It seemed doubtful then that another miracle would save Russia. At that time, it seemed as if Hitler might make it.

That, perhaps will prove to have been the low point of Allied fortunes on the surface chart. The one welcome event was the defeat of the Japanese at Midway. Had that thrust at Midway and the Hawaiian Islands succeeded, our position would indeed have been difficult. But underneath were building up the forces that would later come into play if the Russians could hold at Stalingrad, if the British could hold in Egypt, if we could hold the Midway-Hawaii line and stop the Jap advance at Guadalcanal.

Those things have been done. Slowly the balance turns. American and British troops, axle deep in North African mud, are waiting only for dry weather to turn the Axis out of Africa. The iron ring around Germany remains unbroken. We will gradually shrink it. Casablanca undoubtedly means that Spring will come in like a lion for the Allies.

This is the time, then, when restrictions on the home front mean more for the Spring front. Gasoline and fuel oil saved at home mean more tankers of oil and high-octane gas for the front. If Mr. Jeffers doesn't get as much synthetic-rubber machinery as he would like, it means more high-octane planes sooner and that means more planes over Germany sooner. If we don't have as much coffee as we would like, it means more ships in which to carry supplies for the fronts.

On The Home Front

The Little Woman Restive?

The New York Times

IT WILL be a rare husband, or a blind one, who has not in recent months noted a change come over his wife. The war is responsible, of course, or at least we will hope so. The change may be nothing more than a subtle increase in self-assertiveness which takes the form of her announcing in a firm, decisive voice that she is going into the city on such and such a day and he will be expected to stay at home and guard furnace and children. Or the bald, unadorned statement that she is going down to the neighborhood movie that evening.

In the old days she would have put the matter tentatively as, perhaps, a request or at the strongest an appeal to her spouse's better nature. But all that by-your-leave subjection is gone now.

Years ago, when woman was fighting for her "emancipation," there was an expression in some housewives' eyes that was, at least once, referred to as "The Twelve Pound Look." Barrie named one of his plays for it.

This immediately sets a husband to thinking. There wouldn't be any little woman waiting at the front door of an evening to take his coat, get out his slippers, and later cook a good hot meal with one cup of coffee for him. This would be unpleasant; while he would be heartily willing to make the sacrifice if the war absolutely requires his wife's services, he would a little rather keep her at home—with time off, of course, for her community wartime duties.

What is more natural, then, when he is in this disturbed frame of mind, than to follow her to the kitchen offering opposing arguments, and suddenly find himself with an apron around his front and a drying cloth in his hand, ready for duty at

tage of this situation to bulldoze their husbands would be unfair, but it may be just possible that some psychological warfare is going on to prompt, say, a more co-operative spirit toward the housework. A wife might drop the hint, for instance, along toward the end of the dinner table conversation, that she was getting a little bored with her maidless kitchen and sometimes thought she might get a war job.

U. S. Slowpokes

Tripoli's Light

By Samuel Grafton

NEW YORK

THE Germans left Tripoli on Saturday, Jan. 23. The British entered immediately afterward. I should like to know why it was possible for them to wipe out the anti-racial laws of the place by Sunday, Jan. 24, when we have not done so in our part of North Africa in almost three months.

Why have we not? Is it fear of offending the Arabs, as stated? There are Arabs in Tripoli. A dispatch from Tripoli, dated Sunday, Jan. 24, tells of all racial groups, Italians, Arabs, Jews, mingling freely and happily on the streets. Are the Arabs of French Africa more touchy than the Arabs of Libya?

A New York Times cable dated Jan. 26 tells us: "The military government (in Tripoli) is interning Fascist leaders and prominent members of the party. Fascist clubs and so-called cultural centers will be closed, and although Italian schools will not be forbidden to operate they will not be allowed to spread the Fascist doctrine or to use Fascist textbooks."

But we have had a contrasting cable, by Mr. Drew Middleton, from our part of North Africa, Morocco, telling us about a Vichy Gespato, which still functions, persecuting de Gaullists, our friends.

And a Vichy Fascist club, the "Automobile Club," of Casablanca, still operates, and Frenchmen are still forced into a Fascist "Legion of Veterans," while pro-Allied citizens are banished to the remote desert and pictures of Petain hang high. Pro-Fascist leaders have not been interned in Morocco. They rule Morocco. Democrats are interned.

The kind of citizen who would be in jail in Tripoli is free in Casablanca; the kind of citizen who would be free in Tripoli is in jail in Casablanca. This incredible tale of two cities is highlighted by a cable telling us of great public happiness in Tripoli, and another cable telling us of the despair, gloom and cynicism manifest to this very day in Casablanca.

What explanation is there? Military expediency? But the British interned the Fascists and rescinded the Italianate Nuremberg laws on the day they entered a burning city. They freed 16,000 prisoners of the ghetto within a few hours. We have been in North Africa nearly three months. The British are more entitled than we to put up the banner of military expediency and to march, crab-wise, away from the issue, under it. They don't do it.

House Bill

The Congressional Record

MR. HINSHAW. (Calif.) Mr. Speaker, on yesterday I acquired what appears to be a $20 bill. Printed across the top are the words "National Currency Secured by United States Bonds Deposited with the Treasurer of the United States of America or by Like Deposit of Other Securities." May I ask some member of the Committee on Ways and Means just what kind of currency that is? It was issued by the Federal Reserve Bank of Philadelphia.

Mr. DEWEY (Ill.). That is a Federal Reserve bank note. I believe its issue at the present time is unauthorized.

Mr. HINSHAW. Does the gentleman mean to say that we would have money in circulation called national currency the issue of which would be unauthorized?

Mr. PATMAN. May I state to the gentleman that it is no more misleading than the paper money we have out that is supposed to be payable in gold, although we are off the gold standard and it is not payable in gold.

Mr. HINSHAW. I would not argue with the gentleman on that question, but this is a piece of national currency that is secured by the deposit of United States bonds or other securities. Can we go on indefinitely depositing bonds by the billions and issuing national currency?

Mr. DEWEY. I understand that the issue of $660,000,000 of this currency was authorized, but its further issue has been stopped.

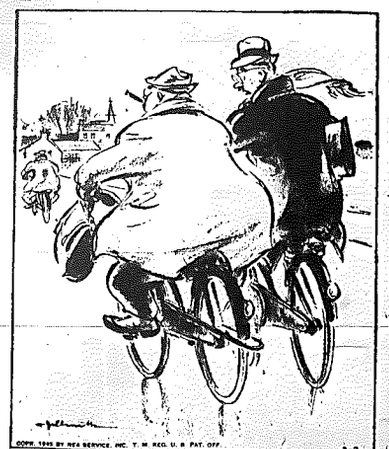
Mr. HINSHAW. I thank the gentleman for his contribution.

Mr. PATTON. If the gentleman will yield further, it is worth 100 cents on the dollar. The gentleman would not sell his bill for any less than that?

Mr. HINSHAW. I took it for a $20 bill myself. I am not worried about that.

Mr. RANKIN. I will give the gentleman $19 for it.

Side Glances



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"I've been a little nervous about riding this bike to the station since my wife started