

THE CHARLOTTE NEWS

And Evening Chronicle
Published Every Afternoon Except Sunday By
The News Publishing Company, Inc.

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SUBSCRIPTION RATES
By carrier: 25 cents a week one month \$7 cents. By mail: One month 57c; three months, \$1.60; six months, \$2.40; one year, \$4.00.

THURSDAY, APRIL 8, 1943

Still Leader

Victory Over Bankhead Bill Proves Presidential Power

Look now, at this rebellious Congress, elected by a rebellious people in November, of Republican hue, of revolutionary aims. It aimed to resist. It did resist. In the weeks and months of its early service, the people said it would halt the President in his march toward greater powers. The people began to say that the days of the President were numbered, that this Congress would strip him, that the United States of America would stand for no socialized swing to the far left, that no totalitarianism could creep upon us in the guise of bureaucracy. This gallant band of Congressmen would stop Franklin Roosevelt.

This week, it became apparent that Congress had not stopped the Great Man. He had vetoed the Bankhead Bill as inflationary, and though Congress wanted to argue with him, though the bankers stood up and went through their spools, the revolt did not come. The majority knew well when to yield to group pressure, and when to bow down before the great gale of the national will. The majority saw that it could not answer the President, and so it gave him back the baton of leadership.

It was an important step, that beating back of the Bankhead Bill. The bill was not an honest thing. It was a frank grab by the Farm Riots of the security which no group deserves above any other in war time; it was echoed loudly in the Senate as the puppets went through their dance. The echo faded quickly when the President spoke and the puny knew that he spoke for the people.

No, Franklin Roosevelt, for all they say, has not lost his power nor his leadership. He stumbles and bumbles, but the war program moves, majestically despite the criticism and complaint, and when he speaks essentials, his voice rumbles like old thunder. He is yet the leader.

Free Vermin

Anti-American Papers Still Able to Circulate Their Venom

The American press is so supremely free of restriction that there is no way possible, just now, that the subversive publications charged with disseminating anti-American propaganda can be suppressed by the Department of Justice. Of the several papers whose publishers are awaiting trial under Federal indictments, six may still be bought in public, and there is, in addition, "The Cross" and "The Flag" decreed by Senator Bob Reynolds, whose publisher has not even been indicted. The publisher is the Rev. Gerald L. K. Smith, former Silver Shirt leader and Huey Long henchman.

One may buy "The Broom," "The X-Ray," "The Defender," "America in Danger," and many monthly bulletins specifically named in the indictments. A few of the journals are no longer published. When William Dudley Peckley was convicted, his "Gallant" and "Roll Call" ceased publication with his conviction—and a pair of other publishers of vicious literature have been forced to suspend publication due to their inability to raise bond to get out of jail pending trial.

But those six still in the field go blandly about the business of attempting to pollute the current of American thought by injecting Fascist and Nazi doctrines into the public mind. FBI agents, who know exactly who is publishing what, and where, are powerless. Without a law under which to proceed, they may only make things as difficult as possible for the publishers of the Vermin Press by the aid of the Post Office. But even the difficulties of obtaining second class mailing privileges is not enough to deter these propagandists.

Postmaster General Walker has denied second class privileges to "X-Ray" and "Publicity," but the publishers have applied for reinstatement, and have posted bond for the difference between second and third class mail until their cause is heard. In that way, the evil literature still circulates freely.

Since the indictments, the periodicals mentioned are much chastened. They no longer justify the Nazis or charge the United States with having caused the war. "The Broom" declares itself opposed to Nazism and Fascism. The "X-Ray" prints occasional cartoons,

distributed by a national syndicate, urging readers to take their change in war stamps. A rare article even denounces Hitler.

However, all still prefer to denounce Jews, Communists, the Justice Department, New Dealers, Freemasons, the FBI, and labor unions, without particularly distinguishing one from another. This does not make for instructive reading, but it is not indictable either.

Closed Books

Nachlers May Union Records Be Publicly Examined

As Congress considers another in the long series of bills aimed at control of union leaders and activities by requiring that union finances be made a matter of public record, independent investigations have taken their own survey of the darkened field. Trying to find public records of union business is, as ever, an almost impossible job. A research-minded editor, checking the facts, found that the New York Library offers the records of the Musicians' union only, and that they tell little of the behind-scenes operations.

It is of interest to note that the Electrical Workers and Teamsters have not made public financial data since 1925, the Carpenters since 1916, and the Hod Carriers and Common Laborers since 1911. All of those unions were among the leaders in the voting at the last AFL convention in Ottawa—but their thousands of members have no access to financial reports. James Caesar Petrillo's Musicians' union offers an audited financial report—in which expenses are set down in detail on occasion, and again are expressed in lump sums, which an investigating member might like to see broken down. President Petrillo's salary is twice listed, in different sums; Honorary President Joseph Weber's salary is once listed as \$20,901.11, and again only \$9,163.83.

In the AFL unions there are \$194,362 dues-paying members. Few of them have been given the opportunity of examining the financial setup of their brotherhoods—and any of the inequality who wonder what becomes of their funds will be a long, long time making a discovery in any public records extant. But Congress, in a union-controlling mood, is likely to change the record place the records before all the people where they should be.

Grocery Store

Ladies Savvy Point Value But Not Rationing Program

An Ivory Tower agent, assigned to the grocery stores of the city for a busy week in 1943 but with a new appreciation for the courage and stamina of American womanhood—and despairing for the future of our land. He reported, in addition to outrageous high prices and point values in these times a perplexing lack of appreciation for the war on the part of the shopping ladies.

At a checking counter, for instance, he heard one lady moaning in despair because one kind of ration tickets was about to run out of date—and she couldn't find enough rice she could use to get rid of the tickets! He saw one cart full of baby food, and heard its owner remark that the whole family was eating that starchy food now, for its low point value.

He overheard an enlightening conversation: One lady was complaining of all the food hoists in Charlotte who'd been out that day, buying up in the mail of their ration coupons. Her companion replied that it was certainly terrible—but that she'd safeguarded herself against such selfishness on the part of others, and stocked her house full before the rationing program went into effect! Neither lady seemed to be anything funny or unusual about the whole affair, but went on, picking over the fresh vegetables.

Our operator reports that men who are not accustomed to frequenting the big markets, if they prefer an interest in humanity at work, might profitably spend many hours in the centers of food, where the feelings of the people are exposed in these times.

A filter of our bars nine Jap planes in South Pacific skies. In the Government financial summaries, dropping nine Zeros makes for easy reading.

Pressure Is Over

Congress Back To Normal

By Raymond Clapper

WASHINGTON
THIS is written before the Senate vote on overriding President Roosevelt's veto of the inflexible Bankhead bill to shove up farm prices. This measure is indefensible on any grounds of national interest. It is purely political.

By voting for the bill in the first place, most members of the two houses satisfied the political pressure that was brought on them. President Roosevelt had to veto the measure to protect the national interest. We must depend on the House or the Senate to uphold the President by refusing to override his record.

This situation again demonstrates the wisdom of the constitutional fathers in giving the President a restraining hand in legislation equal, through the veto power, to two-thirds of the Congress. Individual members of Congress felt unable to resist the political pressure for the Bankhead bill.

Only two members of the Senate were bold enough to put their names down against the Bankhead bill—Orry and Green of Rhode Island. But many of those who voted for it, like Senator Barkley, the Administration leader in the Senate, were ready to reverse themselves and support the Presidential veto once they had made their record.

In the House, fortunately there was no roll-call. The bill would have passed on a roll-call, but the Democratic leader, Representative McCormack, wisely did not ask for a record vote. Every member is free to come to the President's support without a previous record vote to consider the interests of the nation as a whole, and drawing support from every part of the nation, is less vulnerable to specific pressure groups or special interests. In any case the tradition of the office

exerts a strong pull on every President to rise above immediate political considerations and support the long-range interests of the nation.

So it is with President Roosevelt now in fighting the danger of inflation. The real danger of inflation will come after the war as it did before. But the defenses against inflation established now will make the nation better able to resist the strain that is to come.

Mr. Roosevelt has taken his stand for preservation of the wage ceiling imposed by the Little Steel formula. He has insisted that it be observed by John L. Lewis and his United Mine Workers. But as the President said in his veto message, if the Bankhead bill is passed over the veto it may be impossible to stand by this wage-restriction formula. If Congress by legislation forces up farm prices, then it will be impossible to hold the line on wages.

The Bankhead bill doesn't give the farmer the kind of help he needs. The farmer gets a parity price, or better, and this is a bill to give him some more by not figuring into partly the Government benefit checks the farmer receives. What the farmer needs is help, farm machinery, and fertilizer. Higher prices will not produce any of those things. Higher prices will only shove up wages and in turn prices of what the farmer must buy. So the bill is a phony.

The President says everybody must cut his living standards. He is not taking it out on the farmer. No President in modern times has done more for the farmer than Mr. Roosevelt. Have the farmers forgotten the years when the Republicans were complaining that they couldn't beat Roosevelt because of the gentle rain of benefit checks from Washington?

Probably they have. That's expected in politics. Senator Barkley knows it is no way from his campaign the story of ingratitude encountered from a constituent for whom he had done many favors. Senator Barkley recalled the numerous favors he had done.

But the disgruntled constituent barked back: "You ain't done nuthin' for me lately."

—By Dorman Smith

His Cup Runneth Over



Biggest Fact

The Looming Offensive

By Samuel Grafton

EVERYTHING for the offensive! That is the slogan being uttered in Congress on any subject, unless it is meaningless without reference to it. No one has asked, in connection with the coming international conference on the "post-war food problem" whether the delegates will know, or not know, that the big offensive is, or is not, scheduled.

Yet how can they justify the "post-war food problem" in their muddy pants without that knowledge? It makes all the difference between merely hoping that France and Greece will some day be fed, or really knowing that a sure and certain delivery service is being organized for this year.

The coming offensive is the biggest single fact of the year, the year and our lives. It should inform every public utterance on every subject, and thrill for the fulfillment of the immature of the future. When it comes, it should come as a cheap thrill for the fulfillment of men whose minds were on something else all the while it was being prepared.

It is hard to see how a single meaningful speech can be uttered in Congress on any subject, unless it is illuminated by the selling of the immature of the offensive. We ought to talk and speak as if it were going to come off tomorrow morning, for it may.

If the coming offensive is not a mirage, then all other realities are exactly what they are, and all other realities are exactly what they are, and all other realities are exactly what they are.

What were you doing, grandfather, when the great offensive was being planned? "I was trying to override the President's veto of a price ceiling bill," he will say now. The bill will not even remember the name of the Bankhead bill. At most it will be a footnote among the curious of the war.

Quote, Unquote

In spirit, desire and fulfillment, British officials have come up to our expectations in the Lend-Lease agreement.

—Lodge Representative W. Averell Harriman.

The business man of America is interested primarily in economic conditions, not in the new wave of political economics. Our business men must be interested in the new wave of political economics.

If I had my choice I would see the British Army fighting beside the Russian Army. For heaven's sake, if the military have come to the conclusion that they cannot take Bizerte by June 1, or whatever it is, then let us draw stump over it off, and start somewhere else.

—Lord Wedgwood of British House of Lords.

Individual Germans are going to Dutch people asking for certificates that they have behaved correctly—and those who refuse to call them in, or else! It is clear what purpose those certificates of decency are going to serve.

—Netherlands Ambassador Alexander London.

Unemployed, rich or poor, will have to be lined up. We cannot afford to have idle people. Idle at the top make idlers at the bottom. No one must stand aside in his working period to pursue a life of selfish pleasure.

—Winston Churchill.

Side Glances



"Yep, I'm off to the Army next week, ladies, but don't cry about it—if you feel patriotic you can buy me a banana split!"

Bonnie Blue

Flags Come Home

EVERY now and then something happens to remind us that the War Between the States is over. It should be, of course, since Lee surrendered 76 years ago next Friday.

The current reminder is the decision of the Wisconsin State Legislature of the Nineteenth Mississippi Infantry, the Mississippi Devils, the Pelican Rifles of Louisiana, the First Missouri Cavalry, the Richmond Rifles of Arkansas and the Cedar Creek Rifles of South Carolina. Some of those flags were made by pretty young ladies in crinolines and presented while the bands played and hope ran high.

When you read such books as Bell Irwin Wiley's current "Life of Johnny Reb" you seem to know those young ladies and those young soldiers—and they aren't so different from today's boys in the GI suits, and the girls they go around with. That war was a dark and terrible valley of death, and a more terrible still. Some of the boys who carried the bright flags into action were killed, some died of camp diseases and wounds, some lived in poverty. Even after three-quarters of a century and more it is not pleasant to think of it all with the lives of men and women (killed just as the battle flags were, but this one Grant and Lee's reversal) in the memory of Lee and Jackson is as truly an American memory as that of Lincoln.

And this year's invasion of the South by hundreds of thousands of Yankee troops adds up to something good and friendly for the united nation.

But let us look another three-quarters of a century ahead. Do we see Russia sending back the swastika banners which in front of Stalingrad? Do we see the French returning the flags they wrest from Nazi hands when the great retreat in the West began? To ask such questions is to answer them. Our story of the war is not the story of the Lost Cause was noble in defeat. Neither eight decades of republics will lend nobility to the enemy we unitedly confront today. The Stars and Bars is reverent memory of the South by hundreds of thousands of Yankee troops adds up to something good and friendly for the united nation.

Platform Of The People

Keep Food Pure

Editors, The News: Our preoccupation with winning the war and the dislocations caused by changes in our mode of living afford an unusual opportunity for some short-sighted, selfish people to have realistic removal and obligations voided that protect our interests.

For example there is the concerted effort now being made to permit the packing of ungraded food and vegetables without appropriate label declaration to show that the products are of mixed or inferior quality. The Federal Food, Drugs and Cosmetic Act now makes it mandatory that the label give the consumer full information about the quality and quantity of the contents of any can or package of food or drug that he purchases.

This has not always been the case. Until a few years ago, when the old Food and Drug Act passed during the administration of Theodore Roosevelt was superseded by the present act, the law required that little information be given on the container label other than the name of the product and the quantity of contents. Labeling under the act now in force is based on the concept that the consumer should give full information regarding the food or drug that he buys.

Just read carefully all the labeling on any retail package of food and you will appreciate how much information is given enabling you to compare values and to know just what you are getting for your money. To illustrate: Buy a 2 1/2 lb. can of peas and you will find the can contains "Small, Early June Peas, Net Wt. 1 lb. 4 oz." you can now buy a 2 1/2 lb. can of peas and you will find the can contains "Small, Early June Peas, Net Wt. 1 lb. 4 oz." you can now buy a 2 1/2 lb. can of peas and you will find the can contains "Small, Early June Peas, Net Wt. 1 lb. 4 oz."

In this connection I might mention that every single bit of information for the consumer that now appears on labels is the result of long, hard fighting with the same sort of people who now call for an abrogation of some of the present labeling requirements. It is more imperative now than in time of peace and plenty for the consumer to demand to know how much and for exactly what he is paying his money—and he calls for it.

—LEWIS AYER SMITH Charlotte

The Air Lady Smiles Back

Editors, The News: I appreciate your editorial in the Charlotte News, "Air Pocket," which has been sent to me by a friend.

I am grateful that you consider those problems which are considered in whispers the most important. With renewed thanks to you for your support, which is most heartening.

—CLARE BOOTHE LUCE, NYC., Connecticut, Dist. 4, Washington.

Truth About Social Security

Editors, The News: The verbal cascade about social security, perhaps can stand some factual illumination. Today we are spending about \$4 billion a year on social security. Our present aid for the veteran to help for the farmer, and from administering to the Government, is \$1.5 billion. The American Beverage Plan is adopted, the cost will go up to \$10 billion. Our present social security is \$1.5 billion.