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And Evening Chronicle

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False Alarm

Concern for School Efficiency
Is Thoughtless, Foolish One

Many observers, among them our easily-disturbed Dorothy Thompson, are concerned over the results of New York Times surveys showing lamentable ignorance on the part of the country's college students. Educators, crying different tunes, have expressed shock, have smirked with satisfaction, have attacked the tests, have upheld the tests. Whatever the truth about them, whether young Americans know history or do not know it, a great cry is being made over nothing, or almost nothing.

It has always been possible, from any list of students, high school or college, to cull a list of ridiculous answers fit to publish in a new collection of boners. There have always been many of those who could not or would not absorb knowledge when offered to them. It has been forgotten that mere passage through a school system is no guarantee that a student will emerge educated.

It has also apparently been forgotten that the aim of American education for several generations has been to educate as many youngsters as possible; attendance at college became a prize from the social, as well as economic point of view. And with the cry for wholesale education, thousands of boys and girls who had no business on a college campus were enrolled, and ground through the mill. It is not that there is less material, or inferior material, offered to them—it is simply that there is a great deal more culls in college today because there are a great many more students (disregarding the loss to the services, of course).

To be sure there are those who do not know who was the Civil War President, who cannot quote Lincoln, who have no conception of the place of Congress in our Government—but for every one person who possessed such knowledge two generations ago, many possess it now. It is unfair to expect the general education of the country to be on the level of the progressive ideal in many parts of the country—to malign it on the basis of this Times survey. It may be simple to prove that there are some college students who do not know beginning mathematics. It is as simple to prove that a great many more than ever before have a working knowledge of calculus. We have bargained for more universal education, and we have it. We would defeat the purpose of the program to weed out the failures and brand them as the perfect examples.

Too Placid

Americans Refuse To Take
Nazi Cruelty as Fact

As the result of two unofficial polls taken by metropolitan newspapers, it may be assumed that the average American still regards the Nazi enemy as an honorable opponent—and is prone to take any report of his cruelty and inhumanity with plenty of salt. The attitude is expressed that the "atrocities" of the first World War were pure and simple propaganda—and the average man has long since decided to disregard any such stories in the future.

To a great many people, it is painfully evident that Americans haven't begun to hate Nazism as it should be hated in order to win a quick, decisive victory. This war is too much considered as any other war. The people do not believe the stories of the Warsaw ghettos. They have not remembered Lidice, or if they remember, they do not believe in its horror. There is little disposition to accept verified reports of enemy lawlessness, of wholesale executions, of deliberate erasure of entire populations. There is forgetfulness, even, of the hopeless pilots, machine-gunned by jets as they parachute to earth. The war has come to be accepted as a magnified inconvenience, in which there must be a certain amount of death and suffering, and some restrictions at home. There is not an expression of American loathing of the perverted Nazi ideals. Americans are content to chuckle as they hear Winston Churchill roll the word in a hateful drawl, as they people frown the public looks upon combat with the Nazis as a grim sporting event, with the old sporting rules holding good.

That, of course, is not true. There is no law, nor any basis for law, in the New Order. The Nazi troops are not simply well-trained troops; they are infested with the disease from home. The reported atrocities and crimes against humanity and civilization are done as a matter of course. It is in Washington and London, by the hundreds, because

of them, many lives will be taken after peace comes. The murderers will be brought to justice, and justice will mean death. But that, regardless of public opinion in America—or the lack of it—will be done. In the meantime, we need a national recognition of the horrible fact that we fight beasts, not men. If we do not need hatred to fight our war, then we need the knowledge that the enemy fights against us in the deepest, blackest of all hate.

Life Saver

President's Tough Order
Holds Off Inflation

It may have come too late to halt the march of inflation so far as many Americans are concerned, but the Presidential order virtually freezing the cost of living at present standards is a workable guarantee that further advances will not come upon us, and that, with the help of Congress, the President's firm stand may show us how to win the war at home.

Already, millions of housewives forced to buy food on very limited budgets complain that the ceilings are too high—and all items quickly found their way up to the ceiling—and that they face ruin if they must continue. But there was, perhaps, little or nothing the President could do earlier. After prices had drifted upward under light anchor, he threw out the big one, and asked Congress to make the economy stationary.

Two years ago, such a drastic move would have been considered a dangerous experiment, and aside from the criticism that he was dealing in totalitarian principles, the President would have been charged with treason to Americans. Today, such an attempt at controlled economy is to be taken for granted. We are likely to see it used in peace time for the balance of our lives. Its use today is calculated to save us, and if Congress is persuaded to pass higher taxes and force savings to drain off excess purchasing power, then it will save us.

At this stage of the game, with the nation fighting a losing fight against inflation, the black markets, and with wages and salaries stabilized, the last stand order is a good sign to the people.

Two Sweeps

Maneuvers Trick May Have
Turned the Mareh Line

Reporter J. A. Daly, the extremely able military expert of The News, has a memory for detail that surpasses any mapped campaigns ever drawn. Through the years of war he has placed together the big pattern, reinforced by wide knowledge of movements in the last war, and to it he adds daily, making his own conclusions as to coming events. To now, he has a remarkable record of accuracy in predictions of military events.

The other evening, he reports, he was idly turning the maneuvers of 1941 over in his mind, and wondering how those boys of that year were faring out there under fire. He particularly remembered a spectacular sweep by General Thompson's Second Corps in its advance in the time. He remembered the roar of an armored column through Charlotte streets early one Sunday morning, as the Second swept up from York, to Concord, away from the battle area.

When the news came back next day, the routing Second had scored a great triumph. Cutting back in a surprise move, it had swept down the Pee Dee, surprised General Hugh Drum as he made a tour of personal reconnaissance, and probably changed his career. Drum was being boomed for Chief of Staff at the time. In General Headquarters at that time was General Eisenhower, his face very red as a result of the capture of his General. There can be little doubt that General Ike remembered the raid by Thompson and his Second.

And Expert Daly next remembered, in a flash, the sweep in which British General Montgomery turned the Mareh line with an identical movement—sweeping thousands of lives and precious weeks of time. And he wondered if Commander Eisenhower, remembering back to the York-Charlotte-Concord line, hadn't ordered that move as a sort of revenge for embarrassment in Monroe.

A Southern amnesia victim can speak four languages with ease and does not forget his own name. Is it in Washington and London, by the hundreds, because

In Modern America

There Is No More Education

By Dorothy Thompson

WASHINGTON
I AM very much afraid that the revelations of the New York Times of the abysmal ignorance of American college freshmen regarding American history will result in nothing. Parents and Congressmen will insist that more American history courses be put into grade and high schools, and everyone will settle back in comfort.

Introducing more history courses will accomplish little. The fault is not that students are deprived of history courses; it is that they are not taught history. They are also not taught reading, writing, and mathematics, although they are given courses in all of these subjects.

The American Army and Navy exposed the deficiencies of American education long before the New York Times. They discovered that the American colleges were no longer furnishing a basic education, including such obvious fundamentals as the power to read and write and handle simple mathematics. In a form letter, dated April 18, 1942, Major Perry C. Kocher, Aviation Procurement officer, after describing the simple "mental screening test" required of all aviation cadets, said:

"After giving this mental test to hundreds of young men, both high school and college students, I find that the greatest deficiency is a limited vocabulary, and a lack of precision and exactitude in the use of words."

If students do not know the meaning of words, they cannot receive any further education conveyed in words. If they cannot use words precisely, they cannot think precisely. This terrible illiteracy comes out in the answers given by students to the New York Times examination. Not only did they not know the answers, they wrote complete nonsense. Lincoln "emancipated" the slaves; a power of Congress is "power

of voting on the appeasement of the President"; Congress could either approve or not the people the President appointed; if not, they couldn't be judges or diplomats. Rights include "the right to bare arms" and "the right of asylum."

Students who write like this have never been exposed to good books and never associated with educated persons, including their teachers. They have all passed examinations, otherwise they wouldn't be in college. But they have never, at any time along the way, had even a glimmer of why education is.

President Nicholas Murray Butler, of Columbia University, declared, apropos the Times revelation, that it was "perfectly outrageous that such a situation should exist." Teachers College is an adjunct of President Butler's university, and Teachers College is as much to blame as any single institution in this country for this state of affairs.

In our education for which Teachers College is most largely responsible has become an assembly line system, which turns out, not teachers, but technicians.

Pedagogy—the art and science of teaching—has taken the place of learning. Our teachers are taught how to teach but they don't know the content of what they teach and are not even interested in it. They depend not upon their own knowledge, based upon the hard work of study, and of thought, but upon textbooks, and a system. They themselves work with "rote."

A textbook gives a short outline of a period or an event. Then the same textbook gives an analysis by asking questions of the students. The teacher has the answers all prepared for her, and checks the answers of the students with the answers in her text. The grade is then given according to points, and the whole procedure is like a quiz-aid program.

Now no one can get an education this way. Information is related to nothing. The result is that children are so bored that information goes through their heads as though it were a sieve. They retain it long enough to pass the tests, and that is all. It does not take root in their minds; it is not related to any picture, any wholeness; it is not made coherent by thought.

The process of learning is a highly exciting affair. Those who once begin to indulge in it never abandon it. But it is a process of establishing relations, (the reason of reference); of remembering something because it illuminates something else.

The textbook system is one of the most profitable rackets in American life. The only way a college professor can make a comfortable fortune is by "textbooks." Publishers are vitally interested in such monopolies, and employ high pressure salesmen to put them over on every college. A textbook is the only book that some of thousands can be compelled to buy and to read. They are never reviewed by critics. It is too bad.

For if anything could make history—actually the most fascinating of all stories—intensely boring, it is the textbook. Any student who would sit down and spend a few days of pleasant reading of, let us say, James Truslow Adams' "Epic of America," or Charles and Mary Beard's "Rise of American Civilization," would learn more, and remember it better, than the sum-total of all his grade and high school textbook education. Because he would get a coherent, intelligible picture of American history. He would, that is, if he has ever learned the meaning of words.

(To Be Continued)

Our Greatest Blessing: The American Sense of Humor

—By Dorman Smith

France Must Wait

By Samuel Crompton

We Flinch

By Samuel Crompton

I HAVE set up the theory that everyone of our actions must be judged in the light of the coming offensive. The second is true, then we must recognize General de Gaulle formally and immediately as the leader of the French people in France.

Secretary Hull has said he is not interested in politics, he is interested in furthering the shooting side of the war. He has agreed that de Gaulle has the loyalty of the great majority of the French-in-France. His voice is the best voice for giving them instruction and command when the second front is opened. If Mr. Hull is not interested in politics, let him subordinate his political objections to de Gaulle, for the sake of the second front. If Mr. Hull does not do this, he will be subordinating the second front to his own kind of politics.

With the approach of the French revolution, the politics of the war and the shooting side of the war become one and the same. That is the kind of merger which makes history. Mr. Hull insists on his absurd distinction between politics and war, then let him go the whole way and write a new history of the United States, distinguishing between the Continental Congress and Bunker Hill.

Where would he draw that ridiculous line? To say that "politics" is not important is to say that people are not important. To further an attitude of contempt for "politics" is to further an attitude of contempt for people. "Politics" is only people in motion. Mr. Hull seems to prefer them when they do not move. But they are moving. When de Gaulle comes to Africa, the French-in-France, in effect, come to Africa with him. The moment they arrive, the absurd scheme under which the reactionary African tail has been wagging the French dog collapses and dies.

That is why this Administration is compelled to keep de Gaulle out of Africa and in London, and to keep France out of Europe. At a moment when we are contemplating an invasion of Europe to restore democracy in France, this Administration is keeping democratic France from invading reactionary Africa.

The moment de Gaulle stands beside Giraud, the disproportion between the leaders of all France, and the leader of some of the French-in-Africa becomes too obvious; the game is up; the effort by some of our smaller states to build a "safe" and ultra-conservative France, modeling the mother on her colonies, flies up the chimney.

So de Gaulle stays in London. But even that is not enough. He must be denied his formal right to speak for the French-in-France. The French people are desperate, in effect, at the very peak of their revolutionary impulse; decapitated so that they will remain silent during the interesting operation of clapping a new head on their ex-cad. And they say that this is done innocently, that we are merely yielding to local French pressure in Africa, then turning around and applying them to France itself, magnified a hundred times by our interest in the war.

By the time these lines are read, someone may have thought better of it, and de Gaulle may have his permission to travel to Algeria. I want them to stand as written, nevertheless. When we make de Gaulle wait until we crook our finger, we make France wait. We assert our right to make France wait.

Even our occasional concessions have denied France's right to move without our concessions. Even the winning of concessions has been a kind of surrender to the apparatus which grants them. Why won't we set the French-in-France free to act through de Gaulle? Why must they be prisoner in two ways, in the name of freedom?

Quote, Unquote

ANYTHING you see the monkeys eat, you can eat. And you can eat the monkeys too.
—Guidebook for American airmen forced to bail out in jungle territory.

The time has come when all of us—farmers, workers, managers and investors—must realize that we cannot improve our living standards in a period of

total war. On the contrary, we must all cut our standards of living for the duration.
—President Roosevelt.

If a democracy can by a voluntary measure solve a problem which others have tried to solve through compulsion, it is one of the greatest tributes to our ability to do a job as a democracy. Manpower Director Paul V. McNutt.

Side Glances



"My folks don't think we ought to get married now, but I told 'em a fellow needs an incentive to work for a general's job!"

Listen, Students

Gold Is Stabilizing

By Raymond Clapper

WASHINGTON
WHEN I read in the paper about how so many college students don't know who was President of the United States during the Civil War, I lose my nerve about trying to write this column on the subject of the proposed International Stabilization Fund.

If college students don't know any more than that, what can be expected of less fortunate persons? So why write this stuff at all? Why try to pass on information about matters that are important? Why not let the Government run things and not annoy the public with dispatches? If college students think William James was a bank robber, then why try to put information into the newspapers?

I heard Secretary Morgenthau answer questions for an hour about the International Stabilization Fund that he has tentatively offered to other governments for general discussion. I also heard Dr. Henry White, who prepared the plan, discuss it at some length. Secretary Morgenthau said that this plan and discussion of it would spur new hope among oppressed countries.

For instance Yugoslavia, broke, oppressed, fighting in the hills, with only a small dab of gold, could never hope to get going alone after the war. But the people of Yugoslavia will hear of this plan and they will take new heart. Secretary Morgenthau said that the United Nations are working out plans so that oppressed peoples can re-learn their trade when their old operators are defeated.

We will hope that the people of Yugoslavia will be more responsive to the information about the international stabilization fund than the American college students were to questions in The New York Times Sunday.

The International Stabilization Fund is not a bank. It won't lend money. It is not a postwar rehabilitation development corporation. It is not going

to lend money to build dams on the Danube. This is a proposition to restore gold as a yardstick for trade all over the world. It is a proposition to prevent weak countries from pulling themselves and everybody else by depressing their currency as the Germans did after the last war. It is a proposition to make it possible for each nation to make its own small and weak, to find a place in world trade.

Yugoslavia has only a little gold. She would have to put some or all of it into the Stabilization Fund. She would put in some currency—in other words some of her credit. On that Yugoslavia would be assigned a number of Units—which are the proposed units of international trade and would be worth \$10 gold—and with which she could trade anywhere. The International Stabilization Fund would thus make a demonstration of faith while requiring assets as well to the extent that they are available.

You ask why not insist on full coverage with gold assets? Some countries do not have those assets. The alternatives would be to let them sweat, with the chance of extreme depression producing revolutions, or else financing them with foreign loans as we did the last time. This plan is considered to make it possible to help them in a more businesslike way. The fund would fix exchange rates of the various currencies and would control all changes in those rates and would prevent competitive depreciation of currency, which is a favorite way of undercutting the other fellow in hard times.

Member countries would have voting power in proportion to their subscriptions to the fund. No country could have more than 25 per cent of the total votes. But on important decisions 80 per cent of the votes are required to act. So that the countries putting the most gold into the fund would be apt to hold a veto power over the decisions.

That is stuck in there so we won't be mistaken for while proposing a plan to help the world back to normal international trade, through regular trade and private finance channels.

Visitin' Around

Let's See Her
Rube Huger, Carol Mudge, born in a Siltville hospital recently.
(Hemby Bridge Item, Monroe Journal)

Mr. and Mrs. Ben Stegall and children visited Mrs. Bud Sossomon, who is suffering with rheumatism, on Sunday.
Maybe It's Climax
(Piank Ford Item, Monroe Journal)

We were sorry to report that Mr. Philas Greens had got the mumps.
Come On, B. L., Get That
Hoe And Go To
The 'Tarden
(Delaware Item, North Wilkesboro Newsweek)

B. L. Johnson has been sick with a cold and catch in his shoulder. His son, Dickie, also had a cold.
The Shepherd And
The Little Lamb
(Perguson Item, North Wilkesboro Newsweek)

bright smile for some days over the happy arrival of the new baby, Carol Mudge, born in a Siltville hospital recently.

The Wages Of Sin
(Hemby Bridge Item, Monroe Journal)
Mr. Earl Stinson heard a noise in his pasture and went to see what it was. He saw an opossum chasing his cows around. He caught it and put it in a box. Next morning it was dead.

Tain't Worth While
Unless You Bring Back
At Least A Gallon
(Hildebrand Item, Morgantown News-Herald)
H. G. Hoyle and Lester Mull have gone to South Carolina on business.

Well, We Certainly Hope
The Enemy Is Chained
Out Of Marshall
(Guthrie Item, Marshall News-Record)
Mrs. Deon Peck is expecting to go to Marshall to work for a general's wife.