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Washington Kerry-Gordon
Weeds In FDR's Garden
 By Drew Pearson

WASHINGTON
 THE President has been looking forward to the next 60 days, with Congress out of the picture to do some weeding in his own garden. There are a lot of weeds which he wants to pull—chiefs of departments and other personnel who are slow in problems of personnel is not only because he has affection for his friends, but because he says there is no use replacing a man with a vacancy. He wants to have a good successor picked out beforehand.

So, with Congress away, the President has been looking forward to concentrating on getting some new men in his administration—a problem which his advisers all agree should receive attention. They predict that some good plants may get mixed up with the weeds and get pulled also. Even Jesse Jones and Henry Wallace may be subjected to a certain degree of pulling.

champion of Big Business and that the Board of Economic Warfare is the New Deal. He is just as much for Business as Jesse, and is loaded down with executives from private business.

There is no truth to the gossip that Gen. Marshall and Gen. Eisenhower would when the Chief of Staff visited North Africa. The rumor got started because Eisenhower, anxious to point ahead fact in the Mediterranean, had to be restrained somewhat by Gen. Marshall. However, Gen. Eisenhower is the type who will argue vigorously and stubbornly, but once settled he will carry it out religiously to the last letter.

Contrary to some reports, the fact that Eisenhower once served as chief of staff to Gen. MacArthur for four years in the Philippines does not mean that he stands in the MacArthur camp rather than with Gen. Marshall. Real fact is that both Eisenhower and Edw. Gen. Tom Davis, who was MacArthur's personal aide in the Philippines, have been on the side with the Pacific commander for some time, and it has been gall and wormwood for MacArthur to see his longtime subordinate in the Philippines now commanding the most important theater of the war—North Africa.

Friendship between Gen. Eisenhower and Gen. Marshall dates back to World War I when Marshall was the chief strategist for Gen. Pershing and planned troop transfer and strategy behind the 28th, 31st and 33rd Divisions. Eisenhower, somewhat younger, has always worshipped Marshall as the greatest military genius of our time. When Marshall picked this younger friend for the North African assignment, he did not tell him what was cooking, but called him in and laid before him a plan of operation for taking North Africa.

"You think of you think of it?" Marshall asked.
 "It looks OK to me," replied Eisenhower after some study.
 "You'd better think so," shot back Marshall.
 "You're going to be in command."

The Sirens
 Everyone Has a Bad Word For The Fight In Sicily

The success of the great drive against the continues undampened in the Allied lands, but it is peculiarly noticeable that from all sides there are warnings against over-optimism. The official view, we think, is somewhat overdone. We are inclined to believe the country, with so many thousands of its young men now under Axis fire, is ready to accept all operations and reports just as they come. We have seen no disposition to presume that the war is over, and that the casualties will be exceptionally light.

The War Department's use of the familiar phrase, "cautious optimism" is typical of the pronouncements of the military. It is well, we suppose, that it is pointed out that there may still be a furious fight for the island of Sicily; we do not recognize the necessity for long-winded reports on what might happen to the attacking forces. It seems unnecessary to warn that a German counter-attack might split the Allied front and isolate great bodies of men.

There have been warnings that this fight for Sicily might become an encore of the tragedy of Gallipoli in the last war. Such warnings, rather than leading the people to a calm trust in the long-term success of the Allied forces, seem more likely to upset the familiar book. If censorship is to be used in reporting action from the front, it seems to us it might be used in the early phases of such battles as the present one, so that the public may get the sparse details of reports, the battle goes well for us; the new Allied weapons have overcome every obstacle in the early stages of the fighting. It remains to be seen whether the reported 50,000 men captured or will make a successful stand in the interior. One vital factor is that control of sea and air is over, and that communications and supply for the enemy is difficult. We favor showing the figures as they will, without second-guessing at home.

The Guarantee
 U. S. Gets Ready To Make Good Promise To Soldiers

One important fact looming before Americans in the future when returning fighters will begin their search for jobs is that Congress has already promised some 11,000,000 men army work prior to their pre-war jobs, at pre-war pay. Industrial experts have set the figure of Americans who must be employed after the war at 55,000,000—and the most important of these will be the returning veterans.

It is already law that employers shall hold open jobs for men and women in the services, and already Government machinery is in operation to enforce that law. Federal agencies are in existence to make good on that promise of the nation to its fighting men, and there is every intention of keeping the promise, regardless of any attempts by any section of industry to sidestep an obligation.

One study of the problem, made by industry itself, reveals that a great many employers are not familiar with the act, and that they are not fully aware of their obligation, or of the heavy penalties which may be exacted of them if they fail to comply with the law. The Re-employment Division of the Bureau of Selective Service is becoming more active, even in these times of the war's crisis. This agency is charged with the responsibility of enforcing the act, and of steering the returned veteran back into his pre-war job.

Further, there is the nation-wide network of the Clearing House Committee of citizens, scheduled to help returning veterans in every U. S. community. In addition there is the Vocational Rehabilitation Division of the Veterans Administration. Uncle Sam has enough watch dogs to guarantee full compliance with a nation's promise to its fighting men. The adverse effects of the war, and of steering the returned veteran back into his pre-war job.

Drying Up
 Whisky, Legal And Illegal, Becoming Scarcer In State

The drinking man, or woman, in North Carolina has come upon hard times. Even in the 25 officially wet counties of the State, a great drought is coming. ABC story on the drought: observe holidays on the slightest pretense, and usually have only fancy gins or rum for sale. Bourbon whisky, so we are told, is becoming a rarity, and Scotch is to be bought out of the reach of the average pocketbook. In Raleigh, for example, good whisky is to be bought mostly only on Thursdays, when it is delivered from the warehouses at Wilson. In many towns, the stores are open only a few hours daily, and have little to sell.

The policy of trying to keep the stores open, however, has made it necessary to keep all ABC employees on the job, so that the payrolls have not decreased. Another complaint comes from County stores, who recent paying a private company 12 1-2 cents per case for handling all the legal liquor sold in the State in the Wilson warehouse. But chiefly, the complaints are to be heard from the severely rationed drinking men, and women.

This big kick, our reporter advised, is that the distilleries have been buying up the stores and opening, and re-opening and selling unfamiliar brands at high prices. In that way, the OPA's ceiling prices get the run-around. The high-handed tactics of the State Board, in attempting to dictate to County stores the complete rules to be followed in the resumption and general confusion.

The Raleigh officials, we know, have many new problems, springing from requests for more liquor, and for better liquor. But there are changes which might be made to the benefit of all. Rather than have the State Board pass on all County orders, and unable to buy any liquor itself, the State should make all purchases. This would eliminate many opportunities for shady manipulations, even though it would not stave the growing thirst of thousands.

An Eastern headline has it that the Luftwaffe is losing its punch. If it means Goering, it's still a typographical error.

There were opportunities as plentiful for the experienced bookkeeper. Farms used them, and a Western carnival advertisement for an auditor who can double in hours.

Simple Fact
 President & Reporter, Joking, Stumble On An Awe-inspiring Truth

The President, making jokes with his press conference last week about the problem of John L. Lewis, was given to understand, perhaps by happy accident, that the task of meeting this emergency was his and his alone. A reporter, in the story went, asked Franklin Roosevelt what he would do if John Lewis refused to sign a new agreement with coal operators, as ordered by the War Labor Board.

The President didn't know, apparently, so he turned the question and asked the reporter what he'd do in such a case. The unidentified newshawk had a ready answer: "I'm not the President." The anonymous hero was so quick with his reply that he is suspected. Perhaps he was a Republican, or an agent from the opposition. Perhaps he is an enemy of the country.

At that point he spoke out boldly to the President, who is unaccustomed to hearing such talk, face to face. He gave him to understand that there was only one President of the United States, and that he had been missing for a long time so far as the country could figure it out. The country, the reporter told Franklin Roosevelt in those few flip words, is dedicated to the principle that the President should take up the subject, and John Lewis and whomever the daylight is out of him.

The reporter told, perhaps unknowingly, just how weary the people are of the constant postponement and procrastination of the advertising before a hard task. He spoke a mood which was not to be answered by gay talk about writing to King John on pink paper, which was not to be dispensed with. He told Franklin Roosevelt that he was President, just as if he had thought of that point for many months past. The reporter, for the people, said a mouthful. We believe his thought was news of a sort to the Chief.

Now, Then, All Together!
 —By Dorman Smith



New Pioneers
Plans For A Bigger World

By Samuel Grafton

ALL the experts have foreign policies. Mr. Roosevelt will have a foreign policy, Senator Wicker has a foreign policy. You have a foreign policy. I have a foreign policy. But do the plain people of America have a foreign policy? What I mean is: Is there a more or less popular conception of the future which the majority of the ordinary folk of this country entertain in their hearts, consciously or unconsciously? I think there is. I would guess that it goes like this:

1. The plain people of America are unrepentantly interested in border disputes. They regard them as either comical or sinister. The first foreign government which raises a great fuss about the line on the map will incur vast unpopularity in America. Nothing would degrade the war so much in American eyes as the flaring-up of such disputes. The adverse effects would apply not only to the country or countries involved, but to the war itself.
2. Conversely, a peaceful settlement of any outstanding territorial disputes would have an extraordinarily beneficial effect on American opinion. The countries involved would become the pets of the American public. It would be easy indeed to obtain popular support for American financial and other help to facilitate any such peaceful settlement.
3. The American public firmly expects to be able to sell more overseas in the world after the war. It has already prepared itself, mentally, to pay the price, which is readiness to buy goods from any part of the world. The renewal of the reciprocal trade pact legislation shows that. In a heated political atmosphere, this renewal went through with little or no difficulty. This is an extraordinary advance. The tariff issue has been the great straggler of American politics. This year the straggler was damped and wouldn't go off.
4. This readiness to trade is, I think, the greatest single change in American opinion. It ends our isolation. It is by such specific decisions as these that the isolation issue is being settled, and not by abstract jumble-bumble on the philosophical level.
5. The American people believe in the development of economically backward areas. This war has touched off the old American impulse to plant new white buildings in ancient wildernesses. It has revived the westering instinct, which had been dormant for a generation. There is a popular American dream coming out of this war, and it includes flying to Europe for week-end, driving. China by way of an Alaskan-Siberian ferry, the erection of machine tools in the jungle, etc. The American people believe that industrial development is basically good. They think the more of it, anywhere, the better. They have caught a whole new vision of it. This is the tireless, single, mental picture which has come out of the war for them. It is the glamour side of the war, not the grim side. They who address the proposals, etc., will have listeners.

Everyday Counselor
The Words Of Our Mouths

By Rev. Herbert Spaugh

DO you have your tongue under full control? Very few of us do. How I am reminded of this as I read the watchword for today, "A WORLD SPOKEN, IS LIKE APPLES OF GOLD IN PICTURES OF SILVER. LET YOUR SPEECH BE ALWAYS WITH GRACE."
 How carefully we need to guard our words. I am reminded of a story which is in my scrapbook, which John H. told Franklin Roosevelt when he was President, just as if he had thought of that point for many months past. The reporter, for the people, said a mouthful. We believe his thought was news of a sort to the Chief.

A peasant with a troubled conscience went to a monk for advice, saying he had eluded a hard story about another, only to find it was not true.

"If you want to make peace with your conscience, seek that man, 'you must find him and bring him down, go through every door yard in the village and drop into each one of them a stuffy feather."

The peasant did as he was told. Then he came back to the monk and announced that he had done penance for his folly. "Not yet," replied the monk.

"You must now return and gather up every feather you have dropped."

"My Lord, my must have blown them all away," said the peasant. "Yes, my son," said the monk, "and so it is with gossip. Words are easily dropped, but no man has ever been able to pick them all up again."

There is a fine old Negro Spiritual which drives this truth home in its own characteristic way:

They come to my house
 And they talk about you;
 And they talk about me,
 And they talk about you to give me.
 My Lord, my Lord, my Lord.

You can talk about me
 As much as you please;
 I'll talk about you
 Down on my knees—
 I ain't a-bolng to arrive
 My Lord any more.



"This is one of the things I like about going out for housework every day, ma'am—being served a well-cooked meal at noon!"

French Problem
Personalities

By Raymond Clapper

IF ALL goes well, the visit of Gen. Giraud to Washington is likely to result in Allied recognition of the French Committee of National Liberation as the de facto government of France. Some such action as that is needed urgently to provide a focal point for reviving French patriotism and to give a stronger incentive to Gen. Giraud and Charles de Gaulle to hold together. The political difficulties during the eight months since the landings in North Africa have been discouraging at times to those who wish to see a united France.

Prior to the landings, the British had placed strong hopes in de Gaulle as the leader of the French people and just a year ago they gave him support by recognizing his movement as the Fighting French. Complications in connection with the North African landings because of the strong positions of the anti-de Gaulle factions there.

Regardless of the above political considerations it was necessary to insure as much order as possible through Frenchmen to whom the local populations would be loyal. Gen. Eisenhower proceeded on the policy of political expediency for military success. As one high-ranking officer said, it was necessary to play politics to save the lives of American soldiers, to shorten the period of fighting even by one day, then the Americans were ready to do it.

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But there is another important problem, namely, providing a rallying point for French patriotism in France. For that function anyone recognizes de Gaulle as best fitted. But de Gaulle is temperamentally difficult. His sponsors, the British, are somewhat weary of his prima donna methods as he learned in London. To make the situation more difficult, de Gaulle lately has shown a tendency to advance the French nationalistic movement at the expense of goodwill toward the Allies.

Some of these things are causing apprehension although it has not advanced to the serious stage as yet. The fact that de Gaulle is an encouraging resistance to the Nazis made it necessary for the Allies to recognize him and give him a strong role in the French Committee of National Liberation. There you have the very reasons for the hybrid character of the French arrangement. They are unsatisfactory. It has led to the ridiculous situation of virtually two general staffs with the possibility of rivalry of future strife. Naturally the whole subject is highly controversial. I have found much conflict of views among Americans here and in London but it seems to me that the prevailing judgment is that the best is being made of exasperating difficulties.

A History
The Solomons

RECENT American landings and naval victories in the Solomon Islands may have cleared the way to Munda, the chief Japanese base in the Solomons. It is located in the latter part of the century a French explorer, in the latter part of the eighteenth century a French explorer, de Bougainville, landed an expedition on the Solomons, and gave his name to one of the larger islands. (The flowering shrub, bougainvillea, also is named after him.)

To Germany went most of the Solomons nearer to the German-held part of New Guinea, including Bougainville. To Britain went the remainder of the Solomons, including the main islands, and the islands of the southern part of the Solomons. The United States entered into a tripartite agreement with Germany and Great Britain dividing up the Solomon Islands. Far to the southeast, but the United States was then interested in the Solomons.

Germany held at the beginning of the twentieth century most of the islands between the Solomons and New Guinea, including New Britain, New Ireland, and the Bismarck Archipelago. The islands and possessions, along with New Guinea (the eastern half of the island so named), were occupied by Australian forces during World War I, and after the war were assigned to Australia under mandate of the League of Nations—Editorial Research Report.

We Are Chastened

The Chapel Hill Weekly
 "The Charlotte News shines in an editorial in 'The Chicago Tribune,' self-confessed greatest newspaper on earth."
 There seems to be a good many newspaper confessions of this kind. They are usually made by the press of one city or town, enough to make it certain that nobody believes them. That has a rather unusual flavor was quoted in a recent article in Collier's from Billy Arkwright's book, "The News of the World," a newspaper in the world that gives a whop about Osnow County.

And then there is the confession on the front page of every issue of The Charlotte News, "Lives Newspaper in the Carolinas." Was it not understood why The News of the World is in the Carolinas? It might take a lesson from The Chicago Tribune and really say something.