

Health Cleanup

The Department Needs The Prescribed Remedy

Conditions in Charlotte's Health Department have ever been something short of ideal. In many a crisis and mis-crisis, over the years, the unit has found itself at a disadvantage in coping with its problems. There have been no charges of mismanagement, nor of corruption; there are not likely to be any such charges. We are convinced that the greatest need of the Health Department has been the aggressive direction of a capable executive.

It now appears (at least if the suggestions of the County Medical Society investigating committee are followed) that the Department is to be given every benefit within the County's power to give. The responsible physicians who have so thoroughly probed the workings of the department have made six proposals which seem to us eminently sound and practical:

The removal of political interference, the hiring of a \$6,000-a-year director, merit system adoption, removal of clinics to hospitals, addition of a division of sanitation under public health engineer, increasing the general staff.

Those additions, or any number of them, would certainly improve Health Department performance. City Council, we feel confident, will tackle the problem courageously, and give due consideration to the report of the investigating physicians. County action on the six proposals, and on the report that the sale of milk in Charlotte is not properly supervised, is to be expected within the near future.

If the recommended steps are taken, we think that the Health Department will become a far more effective unit for the public good. Its improvement, now that the need has been shown to be so great, can scarcely wait.

Only lately we have learned that Walt Disney is holder of many other patents than his long-known cartoon action. Walt invented the better mouse.

Fearful Warning

Route Rises To Tell Us We Can't Invade Italy

Just when we thought the war was going so well, and we were beginning to feel that we were entering the light of peace in the months ahead, Radio Rome dashes all our hopes to the ground. We are mistaken, we suppose. Being on the ground, the Italian broadcaster must have all the facts at his command. We dare not challenge Radio Rome, without a quiver in the voice, and as if in all seriousness, that the Allied armies had to two years in defeating the Italian peninsula.

Not just that, but the loud clear declaration of our little effort on the troubled Isle of Sicily. He shouts that, if our armies attempt to take Italy at the "same tempo" with which they have taken Sicily, they will be doomed to a long, hard and bloody task.

This man does not see fit to mention, in the last dark hours of his nation's participation in this war, that the Sicilian campaign was the greatest amphibious assault in history; that Italian and German units were crushed in record speed, and that the men and weapons of the democracies proved vastly superior to those of the Fascist nation there. He says, he says about the huge fleets which are crumbing Italy, city by city, from the air.

No, there is only discouragement for us, as the armies prepare to advance upon the mountains. To the tired and mopey men on the blood-soaked ground of Messina peninsula, the words of Radio Rome must have been maddening. The warning voice of Italy calls out loudly, foolishly, mocking military history as it is being made. At it has been before, this mockery only spins the armies of Liberation toward The Roman prophecy is found to be proven false.

The little challenge is hurled at our fighting men even as the shells whiz across Messina Strait, softening up the foot of Italy's boot. While Radio Rome cleared its throat and offered its view of the long, hard conflict to come on Italian soil, the Germans in Calabria were already demolishing supplies and communications. The tip of Italy is already doomed, and the tide is soon to sweep up its length, through the towns already ruined by Allied air power.

Radio Rome does not learn. Somehow, it has no sense of time or place. This is not the gay Summer of 1940, but the

bloody Summer of '43, the time of Italian collapse. But Radio Rome has not long to live, and perhaps its excited hysteria is due one last high note, near hysteria.

The Denial

Winston Churchill Hastens To Get A Rumor Off The Record

Winston Churchill, the champion prophet in the myriad tents of the Allied hosts, asks to be excused, and that his eschaton has been misquoted by rumor-mongers. Contrary to the grapevine reports from Canada, the Prime Minister did NOT predict that the war in Europe would be finished in six months.

All right. We're willing to forgive the rumor and forgive the whisperers. But why the Prime Minister saw fit to make say a point of the denial, we cannot say. Perhaps the secret moves only to protect his record of infallibility—for we do not accept the obvious reasoning that he is simply trying to prevent over-optimism in the United Nations.

But, whether Mr. Churchill is saving himself for the history books, checking a wave of optimism, or merely amusing himself, his statement will do much to keep the victory-by-Christmas theme alive. Now, the world's wondering mind is focused upon the golden day of the coming of peace. When that day is considered, in the future, thousands, yea, millions, of men will recall the Prime Minister's words. They are going to forget the Churchill denial that he did NOT make the Christmas prediction. They are likely to remember, instead, that Christmas is, somehow, a deadline. It will have become a favorite day for the boys to come out of the trenches.

So, for the war of psychology, in which reaction is as vital as action, Winston Churchill has lost a battle. His bearers, all over the world, are going to note that, though the great man made a bold denial, he did not add a single qualifying word about the length of the war. Perhaps, the little men will figure, Christmas is too far away. Perhaps the Prime Minister knows something sooner, and earlier. They will imagine his smug grin, and share themselves in the very ghost of a secret.

It would be smart to get the facts agreed upon now for Hollywood's future use. Truth rushed in earth will rise again, except in an "historical" film.

Football Gauge

President Is Accused of Trading For Labor Vote

Franklin Roosevelt, who has more than once approached the true greatness of a statesman and leader of his people as a moving canvas, cannot escape, in the time of his reign, the charge that he is surreptitiously playing politics in a crisis. Now there comes a charge, from his own lieutenants, that is scarcely to be ignored. It cannot be dismissed with a shrug, or a denial that it came from a biased opposition; it came, instead, from men of his own persuasion.

The reported revolt brewing in the War Labor Board may yet be squelched by Presidential pressure, but the issue which created the revolt is not to be suppressed, now or ever. Two important members of the Board, Wayne Morse and Harold H. Burton, are Liberals in every sense of the word; they have reached the turn now, however. They rise publicly to accuse Franklin Roosevelt of playing politics with the danger to Labor stability, of looking forward to November, 1944, when he would be taking care of the vital days passing now.

In specific, the charge is that the WLB's directives are always quashed by the President or his Lieutenants. Every sense of the word; they have reached the turn now, however. They rise publicly to accuse Franklin Roosevelt of playing politics with the danger to Labor stability, of looking forward to November, 1944, when he would be taking care of the vital days passing now.

The charge is a serious one. One need not expect it to be answered, in freedom, in any newspaper. One can only remember that the recent labor crisis, the blame for which was saddled upon the padded shoulders of John Lewis, should be borne instead by Franklin Roosevelt, domestic appeaser.

Fatal Error

O.W.I. Hates The Enemy

By Samuel Crafon

COOK the O. W. I. and win the war. What war? Why, the war against the O. W. I. Didn't you know? This is one of the big domestic wars of the Summer. The O. W. I. is suspected of being friendly to Russia. Of course, this whole country is supposed to be friendly to Russia at the moment. At least that's the theory. The very same sources which attack the O. W. I. for being friendly with Russia blast viciously the very news sources that we need some sort of political agreement with Russia, and that we had better get it fast.

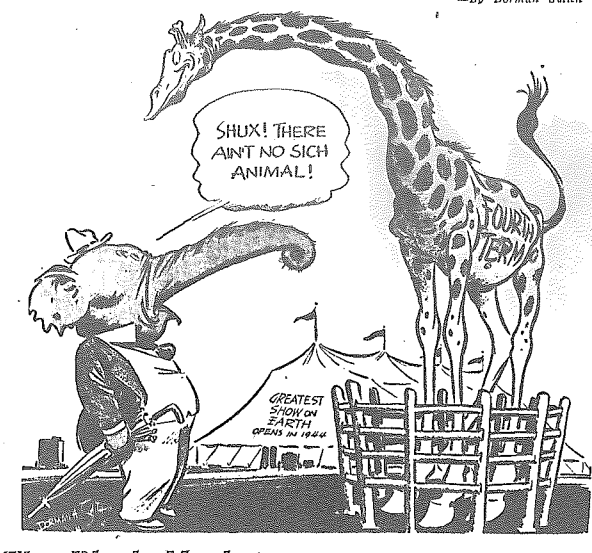
But apparently they want our policy of being friendly to Russia placed in the hands of men who are not friendly to Russia. That will cheer the Russians remarkably, and then we will get along with them. Anyway, sock the O. W. I. Of course we need an understanding anybody else who it for it to dirty leftwingers. Naturally, we have to get along with Russia. But look at those fellows on the Government payroll: they want to get along with Russia! Throw them out.

(And it is such a boring repetition of what France went through in the days of the Franco-Soviet pact, France then had in her hand exactly what we hope to get out of the war. She couldn't stand it. Frenchmen would not adjourn their fear of domestic Communism sufficiently to enable France to stand up in the sunlight and say that she was going to be what Russia was, and between the two they were soon to keep Hitler down to what Hitler was.)

So, sock a certain Mr. Bovington, too. He's on the Government payroll as an economic analyst, and he once visited Russia on the ground, and demonstrated gymnastics, or something, before a crowd. France then had in her hand exactly what we hope to get out of the war. She couldn't stand it. Frenchmen would not adjourn their fear of domestic Communism sufficiently to enable France to stand up in the sunlight and say that she was going to be what Russia was, and between the two they were soon to keep Hitler down to what Hitler was.)

As The Man Said on Seeing His First Giraffe

—By Dorman Smith



The Merry-Go-Round

By Drew Pearson

WASHINGTON (C) CERTAIN Government officials who deal with the liquor business strongly oppose the \$100 million dollar bonding operation being developed in the United States.

They began to smell something when they got the latest figures, which show that the amount of liquor being withdrawn from warehouses for sale to the public is only 55 per cent of last year. And there is every evidence that actual consumption of liquor not only has not dropped 45 per cent, but is even greater than last year. America learned the tricks of bootlegging some years ago, when bootlegging was really tested with difficulties. It was illegal, during prohibition days, to distill liquor, to bottle it, and to sell it. Today, however, none of these processes is in itself illegal.

Temptation to carry on bootleg operations is very strong because of the vast quantities of alcohol available, and the tremendous profit in marketing this alcohol as a beverage. Industrial alcohol costs only 50 cents a gallon. And five cents for "cleaning" the denatured alcohol, another five cents for bottling, and you have a 100-proof gallon of "beverage" which, after adding water to reduce the "proof," is marketable at \$34 a gallon. The difference between the net price of \$1 a gallon and the retail price of \$38 is apparently more than some producers can resist.

NOTE: Alcohol Tax Unit inspectors are required to distribute, but not to manufacture, industrial alcohol, as in the manufacture of paints or anti-freeze mixtures.

Moose Meat

A Washington butcher walked into a chain store market with 35 red points and a hunner for ham.

She said to the butcher, "Could I get a ham? I have only 35 points." The butcher produced a six-pound piece. The lady did a little mental arithmetic. She points a pound, here six pounds equals 36 points. "But I don't have 35 points," she said. "That's all right, lady," said the butcher. "You can take it away. We have more hams around here than we know what to do with." This is the first twitter of what will soon become a roaring war between the United States, coming out of the market with a rush. In fact, marketings of both hogs and cattle are booming again, and this trend will continue through the late Summer and Fall.

Total U. S. meat production for 1943 is officially estimated at 23 1/4 billion pounds—nearly two billion pounds more than 1942, and by far the largest meat production in the history of the United States. This staggering figure is so much greater than the 4 1/2 billion pounds required for the armed forces and Lend-Lease that there will be a comfortable quantity left over for civilian consumption. Nevertheless, there is no plan to raise the ration allowance for civilians. It looks as if the combination of these two factors will result in more of the surplus being on the Washington housewife encountered at the local store.

Communist group, Fire Bovington and win the war. What war? I don't know. But the Soviet Embassy must read the papers. It must send a cable home when a Government employee is fired because, among other reasons, he once visited the Soviet Union.

One admits that the Russians are sometimes enigmatic. But they have not lately, or at least not in public, or at least not with us here, considered it a complaint against a civil servant that he once visited the United States. Anyway, down with the O. W. I. It said a bad word about an enemy. That's heresy. That is scandalous. We don't do that, we who merely say bad words about a friend.

It is so unphilippic, this fearful pursuit of a policy of friendship without friendliness. We should be surer and prouder of ourselves, of our America, of our common consent to get along with each other without force or violence: These sudden startled leaps, these horrid alarms do not become us. How can we negotiate with Russia, firmly and with candor, while all the time our negotiators must keep eye cocked over shoulder watching for new panic flights into hysteria back at home?

Anyhow, sock the O. W. I. It wants the people of Italy to rise. That is Communist. General Eisenhower also wants them to rise. That is not Communist. And some Russian embassy attache has to make this enigma clear in a telegram to his enigmatic Government back at home. I wonder whether these frightened stars and springs on the Red show show faith in America, or unshakable doubt.

Let him who calls loudest on the Administration for a mature understanding with Russia look into his own heart to see whether he has helped or hurt that progress.

Side Glances



"I claim some credit for you winning those medals. Bill—remember how I cured you of being afraid of lightning and thunder?"

An Open City Axis Trickery

By Raymond Clapper

WASHINGTON

NOBODY who gives the matter a second thought will be tricked by the Italian move of declaring Rome an open city. This is a piece of Axis cunning. It does not invite serious consideration, and probably is not intended as anything more than a bit of psychological warfare to cause argument and dissension on the Allied side.

The Italian Government is fully aware of our terms. It is fully aware of what we mean by unconditional surrender. It is fully aware that we will not stop fighting until Italy ceases her resistance and we occupy the country.

By the stunt of "proclaiming" Rome an open city, the Italians are attempting to pretend to us that we abandon our attacks on the capital of Italy. It is as if the British had proposed during the blitz of 1940 that the Germans stop bombing London. The German would have stopped bombing London then only on condition that Britain surrender. They only stopped the blitz when they found that it was costing them more than it was worth.

Actually the Italian proposition is a contemptible one. The Axis is trying to cash in on the fact that the Vatican happens to be situated near Rome. If the Vatican were a hundred miles away instead of being just across the Tiber, we would have no trouble about Rome being declared an open city. The Italian Government says the war must continue until our terms are accepted. The seat of the Government, in particular, can be no such thing as an open city.

You can spare a hospital, but you cannot spare a whole city. Especially the capital and chief commercial and transportation center of the enemy. We have a small, crowded, open city of our own without. If our bombing only if the Government evacuated the place completely, only if all war industry in the city were closed down, only if all military transportation throughout Rome were suspended. Our terms are equivalent to the Italians abandoning Rome.

What the Italians are trying to do is absurd. They are trying to ease out of the war by the side door, through the Vatican door, without paying the price of surrender. They would like to drop out of the war completely, returning to the position of neutral. That would be a favorable move for Germany because it would prevent our using territory in Italy as a springboard for bombing Germany. We have refused to consider any such neutralization of Italy. The next best move for Italy is the one that would spare Rome, by giving it immunitarily as an open city.

As we press our victories, new military advantages open up to us. Each time we advance we move our fighter and bomber bases further up the Italian peninsula. The more our military objectives we agree to restrict us in availing ourselves of these new opportunities. Italian tactics since the outbreak of Mussolini had all been in the line of trying to force us to agree to limitations on our bombing. The Italian Government has proposed indicates any real desire to bring us to our side. On the contrary everything has been pointed toward continuing to help the Axis.

We have avoided bombing Italian cities that have no military importance, such as Florence. In the two raids on Rome extreme care has been taken to avoid damage to churches and other religious institutions. The Vatican is far enough away from military targets in Rome to be out of danger. It is as safe as Washington Cathedral would be from a bomber over the railroad station here, which is on the other side of town.

One would think the Axis would deprecate recent this brazen way in which the Badoglio Government is trying to tempt the Vatican, to use it as a screen from behind which it could continue, more safely to wage the war for the Axis.

Of War Bonds

The Small Fry

SECRETARY Morgenthau announced recently that the situation as to the redemption of War Bonds was "very healthy," with redemptions up to \$200 million during July, 1943. The majority of these redemptions is going to happen as already happened.

Redemptions of War Bonds during July, 1943, were almost as high as during any other month since the start of the war. The majority of these redemptions were due and in which a number of persons hence might be expected in this month for cash. Redemptions in July, 1943, were \$200 million, or 20 per cent of the total amount of War Bonds sold during the first five months of the war. (In millions of dollars)

Table with columns for Year, Month, and Amount in millions of dollars. Shows redemptions for 1942 (July-Dec) and 1943 (Jan-Jul).

Quarterly income-tax payments due. Larger redemptions of War Bonds are only to be expected as more and more of the Bonds are sold, but even on a percentage basis the July figure is up. Redemptions during July, 1943, amounted to 20 per cent of the amount outstanding, as compared with 2.5 per cent in January, 1943, and 1-3 per cent in July, 1942.

The War Bonds intended primarily for small investors are Series E, which are not more than \$25,000 face value. They may be bought by one purchaser in any one year. Of all War Bonds outstanding 62 per cent are Series E.