THE CHARLOTTE NEWS

And Evening Chronicle

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A Shove

Tax Reduction Push Inspires Merchants

North Carolina's merchants, on schedule, are preparing their brief against the sales tax. Their association is on record as favoring a sane and conservative policy toward the present fat surplus in Raleigh. It wants to sail away fifty millions toward debt retirement, and thus effect a saving of five millions annually. That far, the merchants are taking the line of Govern-elect Gregg Cherry. Past that, there is some disagreement.

The fight for sales tax repeal, of course, will be pushed again. The merchants have been engaged—as has many another organization—in an exhaustive study of North Carolina's corporate tax structure. And though the results have not been announced, it is pretty obvious that the conclusion will be that the first rightful reduction in State taxes should be the sales tax.

The current agitation for reduction of corporation taxes will inevitably give new impetus to the anti-sales tax movement. These two forms of taxation, as Governor Broughton and other officials were quick to remind, now stand in balance. A slash in corporate taxes would raise a louder howl by sales tax protestants.

And though the merchants would have returned to the sales tax fight in any event, the movement for reduction of corporate taxes has made their case stronger. The newer campaign has given them a new weapon, and added logic to their argument. Because of that, indeed, the merchants will have new allies when the battle is fought in the General Assembly. The little people of the state, realizing that their burden is being left undisturbed while corporate taxes are up for easing, would add to the hue and cry. So mark it down that the merchants, this time, will make louder and more eloquent talk than ever.

False Scent

The Negro, Not Wages, Made Dixie Look Bad

When the headlines jumped out at us yesterday, we took a jolt:

State Leads
In Draft Rejections
Low Wages
Blamed For
South's Bad
Army Record

That was depressing. We were ready for the report of some commission on the sagging Southern economy. Or perhaps a sociological treatise. But it was the CIO again. Citing a report with the Senate Labor Committee, and still trying to jack up wage levels, and not mainly concerned about the Army's loss of manpower. It followed a familiar pattern; but this time, the emphasis was on the South.

First of all, the report drew its conclusions in a pretty high-handed manner. It wasn't surprising that the South topped the nation in draft rejections. (It was also top in voluntary enlistments, though it was a bit stunning to see that North Carolina led all the rest. But so it is obvious that low wage levels as related to rejections do not tell the whole story, or even tell it truthfully.

If there were time and place we might show that half a dozen other Southern states with wage levels even lower than North Carolina's, had fewer rejectees, and go right down the line with counter-evidence. But the point is, of course, that Southern leadership in the matter of draft rejections is not due to low wage levels, or to illiteracy, or inadequate medical care or any of half a hundred other items in which the South trails the nation. It is purely and simply a racial question.

Negro rejectees sent the percentage away up to 56.8 per cent in North Carolina—and made them soar in all other Southern states. And though our abnormally low scale of wages and living standards must be of grave concern to every enlightened Southerner, it must be recognized that this wage level business was simply dragged in by CIO researchers because it made its point neatly. This problem, too, revolves about the plight of the Negro in the South. One need search no further for the factor behind those shameful figures.

A Lesson

A Frenchman Gets One, And Pays Off In Kind

The French press, standing among the vast and rapidly mobilizing forces, disagrees with Harold Ickes. Whereas The Ick is persuaded that American newspapers have lost influence and integrity because the majority of them supported Mr. Roosevelt against Governor Dewey, a French editor is busy extolling the virtues and vitality of those same public organs.

It is not news that Mr. Ickes finds someone in disagreement, but the difference in point of view here is striking. The editor of *Pour la Victoire*, a French weekly published in New York, looks upon the behavior of the U. S. Press during the recent election as an inspiration and a great lesson for the press of France. He calls to mind the fact that the *New York Times*, which came out for Mr. Roosevelt, gave full coverage to the campaigns of both parties—and allowed its Washington correspondent, who favored Dewey, to criticize the editorial policy.

Mr. Ickes, minus the inhibitions M. Michel Pobers picked up by reason of life under barbaric Nazi rule, was called upon to recognize few or none of the fundamental facts. He saw merely that most of the papers supported Mr. Dewey, and wrote off the press as a discredited institution in which few Americans could place their confidence. The Frenchman saw "a magnificent journalistic achievement," while Mr. Ickes saw only perversion of a sacred freedom.

The evidence of the Frenchman, it seems to us, is valuable in this particular: He happens to know and understand what true press freedom means, because his country lost that freedom and hungered for it during four black years. Such a man, perhaps, can appreciate, as Mr. Ickes and the rest of us never could, genuine freedom in whatever form. Strangely enough, he is not prone to bicker over details and forecast trends. For him, the fact of freedom is enough.

Volunteers

Belgian Communists Raise A Challenge

There's something wrong with the Belgians. Here they've been liberated, and set up with a government of their own—and Great Britain has even invited them into a combine of Western European nations. But there remain Belgians who don't like the new order.

We find them marching by the thousands through the streets of Brussels, singing The International, crying out against the Pierlot Government, hugging hidden guns under their clothes. Men, women and soldiers marched, shouted and sang in the mile-long column. They made no trouble, and wherever side streets Allied troops waited to be called into action at the first sign of disorder. There was no blood spilled in Brussels, but that is not enough.

The marchers carried Soviet flags and waved the Hammer & Sickle just as if Joe Stalin had not called off the dogs and abandoned the Comintern. These Belgians acted just as if Communist organizers had been among them all the while fomenting revolt against his government which happened along after liberation. But we have it on the word of reputable correspondents that the Soviet has sent no operatives into Western Europe since the war began.

It is likely thus in Belgium where the people do not need to be given orders and where some of the Comintern's early battles were fought. It has been thus in Italy, France and Belgium. Germany may well be next. Is the Comintern dead only because it had outlived its usefulness, and Communism was able to go it alone?

The Merry-Go-Round

By Drew Pearson

WASHINGTON

ABOUT two years ago, this columnist reported that genial Gen. Simon Bolivar Buckner, then U. S. commander in Alaska, had used Army airplanes to fly to interior Alaskan lakes to hunt moose, while the ordinary GI was not even given a license to hunt rabbits near camp.

This columnist also reported that, when the Interior Department had refused to give Gen. Buckner a hunting license, he went before a local Alaskan judge, who issued a mandamus ordering the Interior Department to show cause why it should not give a license to Buckner.

The General immediately issued hot denials, though later the Justice Department eased out the judge who got the hunting license for him.

Now, however, the Interior Department has received an official report that Gen. Buckner has been at it again. This time, according to that report, he cracked up an Army plane while hunting walrus. Furthermore, the Interior Department says he shot a walrus, which is against the law. Walrus are rare and are reserved entirely for the Eskimos.

The Interior Department, long peeved at Gen. Buckner's hunting activities, this time is going into the matter thoroughly. An investigator was sent to St. Lawrence Island, the scene of the General's reported walrus hunting, and Interior Department officials say the facts in the case have been clearly established. The investigator reported that the General not only cracked up his plane but, after shooting the walrus, took trophies away with him, which also is against the law.

Interior Department officials say they have not decided whether to take legal action against General Buckner but that they are considering it. Such action is complicated by the fact that the General has left Alaska and recently was in Hawaii, where the Hawaiian press reported him hunting sheep.

NOTE — Wild-life experts in Washington state that the only sheep anyone could hunt in Hawaii are tame sheep which have strayed.

60 Million Jobs

One of the most significant discussions affecting the postwar world and the 60,000,000 jobs promised by Roosevelt is now taking place behind the scenes among top Administrationites. It involves the price which manufacturers can charge for peacetime consumer goods when they begin making them, as some companies will shortly.

A certain amount of peacetime production already has been authorized by the War Production Board, and to prevent inflation, the OPA will set the price of these goods. This is where the backstage debate has waxed hot and vehement.

On one side have been Economic Stabilizer Judge Vinson, War Mobilizer Jimmy Byrnes and, for a while, OPA Administrator Chester Bowles, all arguing that prices of civilian articles produced now must not rise above the prices paid for the same articles in 1942.

On the other side are industry members of OPA, led by James Brownlee, formerly of Frankfort Distilleries, who argue that prices must be above 1942 in order to allow for increased wages and the higher cost of raw materials. They have worked out a substitute formula based upon 1941 prices plus wage increases, plus the increased cost of raw materials, and they have now sold this formula to Bowles, despite his former speeches for the 1942 price base.

Judge Vinson, however, points out that increased wage and raw material costs in many cases have been nullified by labor-saving devices. Most striking example of this was in the OPA study of the steel industry, showing that, despite increased wages, the cost of producing steel had decreased 9 per cent per unit since 1942.

Another factor influencing Economic Stabilizer Vinson is the fact that 85 per cent of the goods involved are produced by only eighteen companies.

Incidentally, Vinson is supported by Gen. Electric's Charley Wilson, formerly of the War Production Board, who says that GE will sell its refrigerators and washing machines at pre-war prices. "To do otherwise, he says, is "shallow, passive thinking."

Finally, Vinson, Byrnes and other Administration leaders are beginning to lay the economic groundwork for the 60,000,000 jobs which Roosevelt promised after the war. And they are absolutely convinced that, in order to have a big consumer demand, there must be low prices, which in turn will keep factory wheels turning and men employed. The principle of high prices and scarcity, they argue, will mean fewer jobs and depression.

NOTE—James Brownlee, leader of the "higher-price" industry group inside the OPA, warned Chester Bowles during the election campaign that, if he made a speech for Roosevelt, every top OPA executive would resign. Bowles didn't make the speech.

Capital Chaff

The Treasury Department had two war films ready to show the public in the war bond drive, calculated to bring the war really home to the American people. One showed a sailor on a stricken vessel, his clothes aflame, desperately trying to put the flames out. The other was a close-up film of a soldier on the battlefield—dying. When the films were shown to OWI, it not only ordered that they not be shown to the public, but that the films be destroyed.

The White House got a terrific barrage from the Senate when word leaked out that two Jesse Jones henchmen, plus one disciple of Democratic Treasurer Ed Pauley, were to be appointed to the three-man Surplus War Property Board. Senator Murray of Montana wired the President that he was shocked at the proposed appointments and would do his best to block them. Veteran observers on Capitol Hill were amazed to notice that the first day's proceedings of Congress featured not a single political speech either in the Senate or House, though it was just after the red-hot national election.

Tut, Tut! Is That Any Way To Register Remorse?

—By Dorman Smith

The World's Biggest Merchant

By Marquis Childs

WASHINGTON

THE sharp divergence between the two major wings of the Democratic Party is nowhere more evident than in the contest over the selection of the members of the three-man board that will direct disposal of surplus war property.

It is not surprising that the contest should focus here, because the policy followed by this board can shape the future direction of our economy. The board will dispose of a 50 billion-dollar chunk of goods and war plants, and even in rich America that isn't buy.

The conservative wing of the party, represented by James F. Byrnes, the President's No. 1 assistant, and Bernard M. Baruch, favors speedy sale of all surplus property with as little possible effect on existing industry and trade. They want to make way for private industry as quickly as possible.

Baruch has been the chief backer of Will Clayton, who was in charge of surplus property disposal until Congress changed the patch and created a three-man board. Clayton is holding down the office, but only until the new members are named. Respectfully, Baruch has affirmed his faith in Clayton as a capable business executive who can do a complicated and important technical job.

The liberal-leftist wing of the party, with some strength among Western Senators and with organized labor, has concentrated much of its fire on Clayton, a longtime associate of Jesse Jones, as the symbol of reactionary business. They want surplus Government property disposed of in such a way that monopolies will be broken and price levels sent downward.

It's hard to see how President Roosevelt can reconcile these two opposed points of view. While his natural inclination would probably be to go along with Byrnes and Baruch, he is not now very much in the debt of those who are urging him to name progressives to the three-man board.

The strong probability is that Brig. Gen. William O'Dwyer, now assigned to the Foreign Economic Administration, will get one of the three posts. O'Dwyer brought back from Italy a report on conditions in that tragic country which perhaps impressed the President to make a change in policy.

According to present intention, one of the Clayton-Jones candidates—Sam H. Husbands, aide to Jones in the RFC—will get another of the three places. And the third member of the board will be James Shepherd, a Los Angeles lawyer who has given strong political support to the Roosevelt Administration.

Two other men are also mentioned as possibilities. One is David Lilienthal, head of Tennessee Valley Authority. Lilienthal has had experience in reconciling the differences of a three-man board, having come through one major upset in TVA. The other possible candidate is Robert G. Hutchins of the University of Chicago, who has been proposed in the past for several war jobs.

The sad thing is that this should have got into controversy at all. The stakes are bigger than any single group. A blunder might make the difference between prosperity and depression or worse.

Quote, Unquote

WHEN we go force our way to Japanese soil, we must be prepared to face larger forces than we encountered in our landing in Normandy. There will be no guerrilla elements in the interior to help us. And the Japanese army will be larger than it was at the commencement of the war.—Under-secretary of War Robert P. Patterson

The Luftwaffe has been crippled, but it is not dead. Thus are fighting like fanatics to save the facilities they need to continue their very existence. For our part, we have no intention of letting them save those things.

—AAF Gen. Henry H. Arnold.

During actual launching operations the ramp is constantly sprayed with jets of ice cold water because as the rocket (V-2) shoots into the air, heat develops which expands the steel frame of the ramp and bends it.

—London Evening Standard.

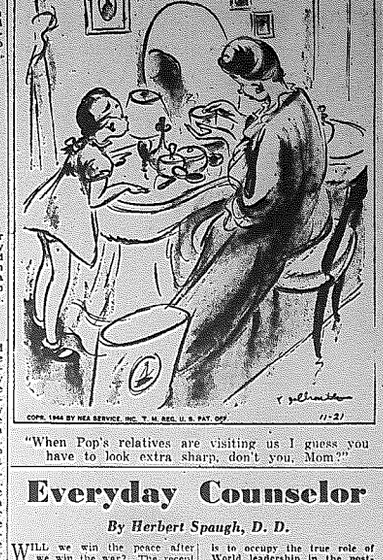
America has given an example to the world of how democratic institutions can be worked with the utmost vigor and freedom without injury to the permanent interests of the state.

—Winston Churchill.

Let us beware of a Pharisaic spirit and of suspecting that our neighbor is less pure than we are.

SIDE GLANCES

By Galbraith



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"When Pop's relatives are visiting us I guess you have to look extra sharp, don't you, Mom?"

Everyday Counselor

By Herbert Spaugh, D. D.

WILL we win the peace after we win the war? The recent commemoration of Armistice Day, 1918, emphasized that fact that we lost the peace at that time because we were utterly unprepared for it. To make matters worse we had the idea that a military victory was sufficient.

Throughout the country many with recollections of that tragic mistake, are determined that it shall not be repeated at the end of World War II. Many men who fought in 1917 and '18 have sons engaged in this conflict. They are tremendously concerned that mistakes made following World War I shall not to be repeated.

Groups throughout the country are meeting to discuss plans for the post-war world. Articles and editorials are being written. The post-war phase is being discussed by study groups.

All are agreed that steps must be taken to restrain aggressor nations; that there must be religious, social, economic freedom.

The factor which will chiefly make this possible is being overlooked by far too many of these groups—spiritual renewal and resulting personal, social and economic righteousness.

Dr. John A. Mackay, president of Princeton Theological Seminary speaking in Charlotte recently to the Council on International Relations pointed out that if the United States is to occupy the true role of World leadership in the post-war era there must be spiritual revival and renewal. He said that unless this takes place and we learn to regard our huge resources and industrial developments as a stewardship to use for the gentle world, we will embark on a course of imperialism and force.

We need to remember that this nation was founded on Christian principles and by devout Christian men and women. Long before they came, when Christopher Columbus first set foot on the soil of the new world, his first act was to fall on his knees in thanksgiving to Almighty God.

We must remember that freedom of religion does not mean freedom from religion. This nation was established under the blessing of God, has grown to greatness under the enlightenment and freedom of Christian customs and institutions. If we again shed the divine light on human situations in the post-war world, and overcome the evil forces and influences which brought on this war, we must have light in our hearts. We must radiate that light. If the light of world brotherhood is to reach around the world, it must first shine in our own hearts. Prejudice, suspicion, jealousy, selfishness, must go; otherwise we face a greater and more tragic world war, which could conceivably destroy Christian civilization completely.

Great West Dreams

By Samuel Grafton

ST. PAUL, Minn.

ST. PAUL thinks it will be busy on war work long after some Eastern cities are finished with their war contracts. This town expects the war in the Pacific to continue after the war in Europe is over. It believes the armed services will want to have their ammunition made, and their planes outfitted, as close to the Pacific battle ground as possible. There can be a saving of above a thousand miles of rail transport by having such work concentrated here, as against the eastern seaboard. I had heard, in other western cities of the same expectation that the tide of war contracts is going to roll across the country from east to west like the sun.

There is some talk in Washington of reducing war contracts evenly, all over the country on a per rata basis, so as to "keep it fair," and give each manufacturer an even break on post-war civilian business; something like lining them up for a new Oklahoma rush. But military necessity will probably be a determining factor, and many westerly cities have a feeling that the day of post-war adjustment is a little further off for them than for the cities of the east.

On the question of post-war planning, St. Paul will give you the usual, slightly hollow answer; public works. This is now the standard reply all over the country and it means a bridge or a road or a jail or a lighting system or a Courthouse or any three out of five. Only in a few places, like Missouri, which is catching fire with the idea of a power-and-wealth-producing Missouri Valley Authority, is there any creative planning for prosperity; most of it is negative planning to tide over unemployment.

But St. Paul is enjoying one delicious quiver of anticipation. This is based on the hope that this city will become a chief American airport in the China-India trade. The thought is that St. Paul is one of the logical points within the United States from which to take off, via air, on a northern great-circle route to Asia, via the Arctic.

There was one famous citizen of St. Paul, who used to think much about the China trade. James J. Hill, the "Empire builder." James J. Hill and his railroad built up much of the Northwest. I stepped in on his grandson, Louis Hill.

Mr. Hill is young, enthusiastic, and a liberal, though he doesn't care much for the word. He thinks most liberals are too vague and impressive. He is much concerned with the Government, and represents a labor constituency in Minnesota's non-partisan State Legislature. I asked him whether business could be expected to pull out of the post-war thing by itself, or whether the country would need Government help.

I think, said the grandson of the empire builder, "that we are getting into a mature kind of economy. It will take sophistication and wisdom to pull out, and it can be done by natural processes alone."

But St. Paul does have high hopes, based on that new air route to China. The cities of the Northwest stare into the spaces of Northern Asiatic Russia, which the cold winds come, and they sense them suddenly to be doors to the world.

Platform Of The People

The South's Role

Editors, The News:

According to the attached clippings—both from the same days News—you say: editorially, that the Democrats need the South's vote. Mr. Harold Oliver, writing from Washington for Associated Press, states that Roosevelt "don't need the solid South in any of his four attempts."

Since Mr. Oliver quotes the electoral vote figures, I assume that he is correct and that you were wrong.

—IRVING J. CASPE

Charlotte.

The point of our editorial was that the South, combined with the vote of the thirteen largest cities, put Mr. Roosevelt across. We did say that had Roosevelt lost the four million votes given him by these thirteen cities and the South combined, Mr. Dewey would have won a popular majority—and he obviously would have won the electoral vote. The big cities in question could have swung whole states over to Mr. Dewey. And that probably would have left Roosevelt barely gone Republican, would have put Dewey in by a whopping majority. It is true enough, however, that the South alone, even by switching over completely, would not have defeated Mr. Roosevelt in either of his four campaigns. And that goes for popular vote as well as for the Electoral College. Editors, The News.

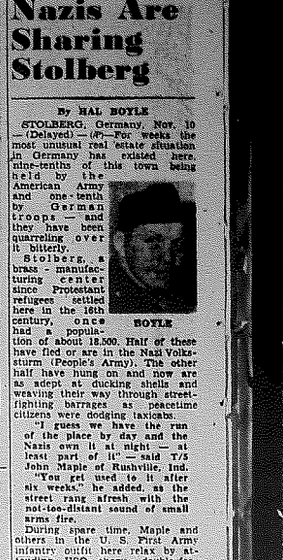
EVERY time I have made a trip over to Europe during this war I've come back to find people saying the war was nearly over, and every time I've had to disagree.

—Hugh Baillie, president United Press.

Yanks And Nazis Are Sharing Stolberg

By HAL BOYLE

STOLBERG, Germany, Nov. 10 — (Delayed) — (AP)—For weeks the most unusual real estate situation in Germany has existed here, nine-tenths of this town being held by the American Army and the other one-tenth by German troops — and they have been quarreling over it bitterly.



BOYLE

Stolberg, a manufacturing center since Protestant refugees settled here in the 16th century, once had a population of about 18,500. Half of these have fled, are in the Nazi Volkssturm (People's Army). The other half have hung on and now are as adept at ducking shells and weaving their way through street-fighting barrages as peacetime citizens were dodging taxicabs.

"I guess we have the run of the place by day and the Nazis own it at night — at least part of it" — said T/5 John Maple of Rushville, Ind.

"We got here just in time — six weeks," he added, as the street rang afresh with the not-too-distant sound of small arms fire.

During spare time, Maple and others in the U. S. First Army infantry outfit here relax by attending USO shows, double-feature movies and Red Cross doughnut parties not far from the German lines.

VIRTUALLY IMPARTIAL

"I guess that sounds funny," he said, "but when we first got here, we grabbed off the street with the biggest bakery. Civilians from the German-held section were walking through both lines to buy bread, then walking back through the lines."

That chaotic period soon was over, and now no such movements of civilians are allowed.

"After the first couple of days the battle lines were well enough established for us to begin to clean out the place methodically," said Lt. Col. Matthew Kane of Des Moines, Iowa, who led the drive.

"Since then we haven't had any trouble from the civilians. We just tell them what to do and they do it. It is kind of a hot and cold town, with most of the people living in cellars."

Stolberg lies in a small valley between two hills. Though the heights are held by Americans, the Germans can and do lob mortar shells from positions only a few hundred yards away and from their strongholds in one corner of the city.

The women and children here haven't taken kindly to being shelled by their own troops, Kane said.

One of the biggest problems in sealing off the captured portions of the town is the "rat-holding" between basement walls of old houses, enabling the Germans in some cases to move three blocks of underground.

Many civilians try to make overtures to the Americans have learned to shout "Good Morning" or "Hello," but because the non-fraternization rule is being stringently enforced, the troops are forbidden to reply.

To try to keep the civilians in American-held Stolberg loyal, the Nazis in German-held Stolberg have propaganda leaflets into the American sector in shells and bombard them with musical program via loudspeakers.

Pvt. Chek Karcyanik of Somerville, Ind., who in the early days of the siege captured three German soldiers, said he believed the Germans were sick of the war and convinced that they would lose it by Christmas.

T/5 Maple agreed with him, but added, "Where the Germans got that crazy idea beats me, though. We've been here so long I feel at home—but not much."

CabinetRank For Nelson

WASHINGTON—(AP)—Donald M. Nelson, who resigned today as War Personal representative of President Roosevelt, with rank at the Cabinet level, and will occupy offices in the White House.

The appointment was confirmed by letter shortly before Nelson resigned. WPB chairman, left this country on his second mission to Chungking to create a Chinese War Production Board. It was announced today.

The Presidential letter notified Nelson he would sit in Cabinet meetings, and was understood also his mention another time in the Pacific on his return from China. This appeared to point to New Zealand or Australia.

Behind this, the note did not go much further in formalizing Nelson's status than the "rank" mentioned, letter granting Nelson's resignation from strife-torn WPB. Mr. Roosevelt then asked him to remain in the Government for "a high period of major responsibility in international economic affairs."

For this reason, some friends of Nelson believe the new message is an interim device emphasizing Nelson's role as direct economic envoy between the President and the heads of foreign Governments, but probably will be followed soon by a more precise title and official status.

WHITE HOUSE OFFICES

Quietly, offices for Nelson at home have been established in the White House, where Mobilization Director James F. Byrnes also is quartered. Nelson's personal effects, along with the souvenirs of four years in the mobilization agency, have been removed from his old office in the Social Security Building.