EDITORIAL PAGE
THE CHARLOTTE NEWS
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One Last Show

We've flattered ourselves for a long time that when it came to having Bob Reynolds' number, recognizing him for the fraud he is, we were first and foremost in a large field. Hence, while there are a few days as Senator remaining to this lamest of all the ducks, and a quack to boot, we crave one more chance to interpret him to his vanished constituents.

All men of any sense at all realize that between the three great powers which will have Europe and the world at their disposal, the most ticklish questions remain to be dealt with, the most delicate relations to be nurtured. Most people, sensing the precarious strength of the bonds which bind the United States, Britain and Russia in common cause, yet recognizing the inevitable necessity of working out a peace in concert with our allies, rather than once again leaving the field to our enemies, endeavor to bear their misgivings and to moderate their extreme nationalism and to call upon their understanding rather than to let prejudice run loose. But not Robert.

No such impulsion sits upon the chairman of the Senate Military Affairs Committee. The platform of this flip clown from Buncombe County remains to the end what it was in the beginning—the prattling indulgence (which he is not above capitalizing for personal aggrandizement) of his ill will toward Britain and Russia.

So strong is this antipathy, and so useful is his role as America Firster along with the Rev. Gerald L. K. Smith and other rabble-rousers of the lowest order, that Reynolds has not hesitated to vent it in an official capacity in the rudest possible manner and on the most inappropriate occasions. Pragmatic spite for Britain and Russia has shaped his views and actions on all phases of this country's foreign policy. Even at this stage of the war with Japan he will tell you that it was against the menace of Russian aggression rather than that of the Japs, which actually materialized, that we should have fortified the Aleutians.

Russia, in his cockeyed opinion, and not Japan, was to be feared in the Pacific. Hence his belief that we should not only have withdrawn from the Philippines at the first sign of hostilities but should long ago have pulled out and left the Islanders, now so useful in our campaigns, to the Japs.

Japs, the little reader will reflect, likewise hate the Russians.

Thus it is that on one of the closing days of the 78th Congress, and likewise of the career of North Carolina's humiliation, the Reynolds windmill was whirling in the Senate again last week, its air-driven vanes lashing out in insensate and unrestrained exuberance against Robert's twin hates—our allies, Britain and Russia. It was a fitting climax, wholly in character, perfectly in keeping with the embarrassing performance with which Bob Reynolds repaid the State for assuming that so gay a blade, so cheery a back-slapper, couldn't do much harm.

Whose Poland?

In the continuing debate over the settlement of the Russo-Polish border, there is occasional reference to the fact that the Eastern territory which Russia insists upon holding as her own belongs to Russia by right of history. Ernest K. Lindley, discussing the Polish problem, comments that Russia has an historical claim to all the territory up to the so-called Curzon Line, including that area claimed by Russia in the Ribbentrop-Molotov agreement of 1939.

This question will never be settled on any such basis. As a matter of fact, Poland has historical claim to great areas of Russia and Germany—and in the long, tangled history of Poland there has been so much swapping of territory back and forth that the skein could never be untangled. Just by way of skimming the subject, Poland was partitioned in 1772, 1793, 1795, 1807, 1815 and 1848. And in all of those divisions, Russia advanced her border almost as far West as Warsaw—and Prussia and Austria squeezed Poland from North and South so that a tiny kingdom surrounded by the enemy remained.

After the last war, and before the Allies had given sanction, Poland proclaimed herself a new state, and embarked upon new wars to settle her boundaries—with Czechoslovakia, Ukrainia, Russia, and Lithuania. The Western world recognized those borders after she had defeated a huge Bolshevist army. Until 1939, Poland had an area of about 150,000 square miles, and over 30,000,000 people.

Under Russia's plan she will lose roughly a quarter of her territory in the East—but likely gain more important holdings in East Prussia. Almost all of the land coveted by Russia is worthless. Its only large city is Lwow, on the border. It is more important to the Poles that they be given means of providing their needs by industry, and thus Prussian cities would mean more to them than Eastern wastelands. And, in the final settlement, it is inevitable that the Polish government, whatever territory it rules, will be friendly to Russia, and will look to Moscow for security. In that sense, Russian borders will be extended all the way to Germany itself.

Full Stockings

On behalf of all those less fortunate families and individuals to whom *The News* Empty Stocking Fund brings hope and cheer at Christmas, we extend sincere thanks and appreciation to its patrons for their help in this community enterprise. There are so many of these people who—will know the joys of the season only because of the generosity of Empty Stocking contributors. And their happiness at Christmas is a subject close to the heart of this newspaper.

So we speak for *The News* as well as for these many beneficiaries in expressing gratitude to contributors both large and small. These gifts will make possible real happiness in many Charlotte homes, as they do every year. And this year, despite the fact that we made fewer appeals than ever before, The Empty Stocking Fund has been most successful.

We are particularly grateful to the Charlotte Boxing & Wrestling Commission for its large contribution, and to Promoter Jim Crockett, who donated the receipts of last night's Armory event. Every contributor, from the givers of large amounts down to those anonymous "friends," may well feel that he has played an important part in the celebration of Christmas through this Fund. We are happy and proud to have been the agency through which generosity could be introduced to need.

A bill in Congress, to let high school musicians play without Petrillo's kind permission, seems incomplete. Many feel it should be amended to allow the citizen to hum.

An Objection

Ex-Governor Robert Hurley of Connecticut and Lieut. Col. Robert Heller have been passed as members of the Surplus War Property Board, and the early conflict over their confirmation is history. It was charged from the first that these men were not fitted for service on this all-important body, and intimated that each had played a part in some questionable proceedings regarding war contracts. That was cleared up, however, and it was finally agreed that Col. Heller, at least, was acceptable.

But before the subject is forgotten we'd like to recall the statement of Vermont's Senator Austin, who summed up the case neatly like this:

"There will come a day when people will turn to this record and read the names of those who have chosen men of the type of these two candidates.

"They are going to ask how it happened that men with no more actual experience and no more standing at the time, were chosen for this great responsibility."

The Senator made his objection without becoming wrought up or ringing the changes. He simply objected to the selection of two men with so little to recommend them for this task of administering the sale of a hundred-billion-dollars' worth of Government property. And, though the deed is done, we'd like to add our amen. In contemplation that the board will be filled out by lame duck Senator Gillette, and that experience will prove it. We think Senator Austin was dead right.

This is a cure for the cigarette habit we had never considered. Cheap, too.

Statesmen At Work

(Serious, facetious and comic excerpts from the Congressional Record).

REP. GAVIN of Pennsylvania told the House last week of five eighteen-year-old boys who had been killed in foreign service, protested that the Army had promised to train these young men for a year, and then suggested strongly that the colonies of the British Empire put in conscription and send more of their men into battle.

He said pointedly that Britain was not bearing her share of the load, and that Mr. Churchill and Mr. Eden did not seem to be interested in conscripting men from Australia and Canada. After discussion which went far afield, Rep. Bulwinkle of North Carolina was yielded three minutes:

Mr. BULWINKLE. Mr. Speaker, I do not know whether I want these three minutes, because an argument such as has been just made by the gentleman from Pennsylvania can be answered in a few seconds. The gentleman should by all means find out the facts about a thing before he speaks. The gentleman should know, if he does not know, that England has conscription from eighteen years up.

There are men on the floor here that could give him all the facts. Again and again I say to you that careless words, words spoken without any foundation, words spoken to create bitterness, makes it, as my friend the gentleman from Georgia just now said, much harder on the morale of our men in the service.

I am not here to try to get you to stop your criticism of the Administration. I will answer that at the proper time. But I do say, and I say again, on the conduct of the war, remember that unnecessary talk might cost the lives of men, might cause injury to many. This kind of rot should stop on the floor of this House.

The Merry-Go-Round

By Drew Pearson

WASHINGTON

HANDSOME, gray-haired Lt. Gen. Brehon B. Somervell politely cracked down on the Mead Committee at a secret session last week and managed to get away with it. He forced them to squelch a devastating report they had prepared on Army waste and surplus war material.

The committee had worked for months on the report. It was a damning document. It showed how the Army had over-ordered, and by so doing had wasted manpower and materials. If it had not been for this poor planning, the Mead committee reported, the present shortage of war materials would not be so bad.

While the Senators don't expect the Army to be perfect, and know that in war there is bound to be wastage, they felt that such waste as they had found was exorbitant, and that publicity would correct it.

General Somervell, however, persuaded them otherwise. He had come into possession of a copy of the report and he hit the ceiling. Appearing before the Mead Committee, he was brief and to the point.

"Right now, when we're trying to keep production up to top capacity in a number of highly essential items," he said, "it would be disastrous if the committee were to issue a report charging us with overbuying and other mistakes. It would seriously impair the morale of war workers."

Senator Homer Ferguson, Michigan Republican, disagreed. He said it was wiser to let the public know that its Government is aware of blunders have been made.

"The people know there are surpluses anyhow," he said, "and they'll feel a lot more confident in the military leadership when that leadership admits mistakes have been made."

He pointed out that the report would emphasize the fact that there is genuine need for such items as truck tires, mortars, artillery shells and others.

Although most of the committee agreed with Ferguson, they finally gave Somervell a chance to reply to the charges before the report is released. The report also will be boiled down and most details of Army waste eliminated. Some committee members said, however, that they are determined the committee's conclusions must not be altered.

No Shortages

After Somervell complained of the danger to morale if the Senate should charge the military with inefficiency, Chairman Jim Mead of New York consoled him.

"Over in England," said Mead, "the military leaders are criticised on the floor of Parliament—far more frequently than here. That hasn't destroyed the British will to support its armies, but it has resulted in more efficient military planning."

Somervell had no reply. At one point, alert Senator Owen Brewster of Maine sarcastically remarked:

"Up to Nov. 7 there was no question about shortages. No one heard the President say anything about shortages—all he talked about was how well the production program was going. And responsible Government authorities backed him up. It's only since Nov. 7 that we've been getting the other side of the story."

Somervell shot back that he had warned of shortages during the election period.

"I wish you could see my desk, Senator. I've a pile of data there which was the basis for warnings about shortages as little as two weeks before the election." Brewster was not convinced.

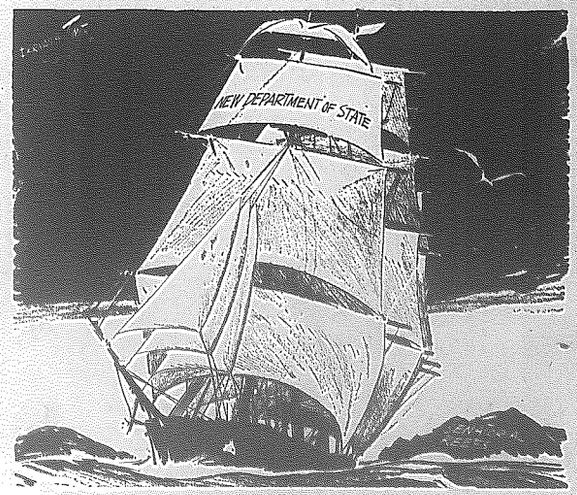
No formal vote was taken, but Republicans, although they went along with the majority, were not happy about delaying their report at Somervell's behest.

What the General really wanted, they privately believe, was to have all criticism of the Army deleted. They are determined that that not be done—and liberal Democrats like Senators Kilgore of West Virginia and Hatch of New Mexico are equally opposed to pulling any punches. Who will win out remains to be seen.

SIDE GLANCES By Galbraith

"Don't buy your father anything expensive—if he grumbles we'll say we remembered his lectures about inflation and the national debt!"

Now Then, Sail On, Oh Ship Of State



The Air Force Pioneers

By Marquis Childs

WASHINGTON

THAT the Army Air Forces should have pioneered a new kind of rehabilitation service for the physical and mental casualties out of the air battles around the world is no accident. Gen. H. H. Arnold, at the head of the air forces, is a genius who is not afraid to break through tradition and red tape.

Arnold recognized the creative force of the system of planned convalescence worked out by Col. Howard Rusk under the direction of Maj. Gen. David N. W. Grant, the surgeon of the air forces.

The system is in many ways revolutionary, and yet the essence of it is simple. From the moment he is physically able to lift his head, the patient is encouraged as an individual to start working his way back to a normal existence again. Gone is the deadly monotony of the enforced convalescence of the past.

It is most emphatically, however, not regimentation. Patients at air force convalescent centers fill out no forms. They do not get up by a bugle to do enforced calisthenics. But their days are filled with constructive activity which comes out of the strong drive for recovery—mental, physical and social recovery. Of all casualties entering AAF convalescent centers, 82 per cent go back to some form of duty in the air forces, and most of the remaining eighteen per cent who retire with legs or arms missing are prepared to fill useful places in society.

The system employs, of course, the modern techniques of psychiatry. But perhaps the most important element of all is the basic philosophy infused through the whole system—treat the human being, and not just the ailment he is suffering from.

Even before America entered the war, the British had worked out a system of planned convalescence with the primary objective of sending men back into the services and, if that were impossible, then back into civilian life as normal productive members of society in spite of their handicaps. The best features of this system were borrowed by the air force.

Now our Navy, under the direction of Surgeon General Ross T. McIntire, is adopting a similar plan in many of its hospitals. A recent issue of the Naval Medical Bulletin had this to say:

"The value of planned convalescence has been adequately demonstrated by the British and by the U. S. Army Air Forces. Over 25,000,000 man hours alone have been conserved in fifteen months by the Army Air Forces program.

"In a convalescent program there can be no timidity or inertia. At this advanced date, initiation of the program must be definite and expeditious if the Services' part in rehabilitation is to surpass their ineffectual part in the first World War. The challenge is here to be met."

The Surgeon General of the Army, Maj. Gen. Norman T. Kirk, has been less sympathetic to this kind of rehabilitation program. He has a more conservative approach to the problem.

In the Army's 60 general hospitals, there are rehabilitation programs. But too often they rely on the kind of Army regimentation that sets up a strong resistance in men who have lived under it and nearly died under it.

United Behind FDR

By Samuel Grafton

NEW YORK

PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT has been pulling off one of his customary political miracles, and, as usual, almost nobody has noticed. It will be remembered that, not long ago, the conservative press was in a tizzy because of "the power of the PAC" in Mr. Roosevelt's Administration. Today the liberal press is in a tizzy because of the "power" of such conservative business men as Mr. William L. Clayton in the same Administration.

Serious writers, in opposite camps, have argued soberly within the last six weeks, that Sidney Hillman has much too much power in this Government, and also that Will Clayton has much too much power in this Government. Do they both have too much power?

Or is the truth, rather, that Mr. Roosevelt has been building a long organization, reading, in the usual manner, from left to right? Mr. Roosevelt likes to pass these miracles. The man who, eleven years ago, pinned together the political power of the conservative South and of the laboring North, to pass the greatest bundle of reform laws ever carried into the statute books, knows this game as few men in our history have known it. The real story of the Clayton appointment is not that Mr. Roosevelt is supporting Will Clayton, but Will Clayton is supporting Mr. Roosevelt; that he is supporting the same man Sidney Hillman is supporting.

Is that bad? Would the liberals have preferred that Mr. Clayton, and as many friends as he could muster, should stand in opposition to the President? Would that have given them a nice, homey feeling? It seems to me that if the President had offered Mr. Clayton the job of Assistant Secretary of State, and if Mr. Clayton had turned it down indignantly, on the ground that he opposed the President's foreign policy, the liberals of America would have been outraged. One can imagine what learned pieces they would have written on a "big business strike" against Dumbarton Oaks, etc.

Well, Mr. Clayton was offered the job, and he accepted it, and he went meekly to the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, and he placed himself on record in support of the President's foreign policy, and the liberals are just as outraged as if he had done precisely the opposite. They have done their best to snatch defeat from the jaws of victory, to make opposition where opposition has been conciliated.

In acting so, the liberals have been making the unspoken assertion that the President does not know what he is doing. They have not quite said that. They have fudged on this point. They have kind of left the President out of it. They have acted as if the recent State Department appointments had come out of a Christmas box, or had been dropped by parachute. They have resolutely avoided answering the question of whether, if these appointments are evil, must not the President be an evil man? But now let us look for a moment at what the President has been building.

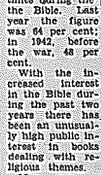
The structure of support for the President's foreign policy now spreads all the way from the CIO to the top sections of American business. With a few notorious exceptions, the entire conservative press supports that policy. There is no solid, organized political opposition. Do anyone suppose that all this is a happy accident? One has a glimpse, here, of the utter objectivity with which the President must have labored to bring this condition about, of his iron willingness to pay whatever price has to be paid to do it. Do the liberals object to paying a price? What do they want? Bargains?

It is unconvincing to hear liberals say that all is woe and confusion; that there is no pattern; that this mixture of Clayton and MacLeish in office, of support from Sidney Hillman and the New York Herald Tribune outside, is only a mess. There is a pattern. All these men and agencies are supporting the President. When the weathervanes all point the same way, it is idle nonsense to pretend one doesn't know how the winds are blowing.

Everyday Counselor

By Herbert Spaugh, D.D.

THE recent Gallup Poll on Religion, conducted by the American Institute of Public Opinion, makes some interesting revelations. According to the survey 96 per cent of the people believe there is a God, and approximately 3 adults in every 4 say they believe there is a life after death. Six out of every 10 Americans (62 per cent) have taken time out one or more times during the past year to read the Bible. Last year the figure was 64 per cent; in 1942, before the war, 48 per cent.



With the increased interest in the Bible during the past two years there has been an unusually high public interest in books dealing with religious themes.

More young people read the Bible this year than last year.

Ten per cent of those questioned in this survey are daily Bible readers.

In spite of this hopeful turn which includes rising church attendance, more than two adult Americans in every five, or an estimated 30,000,000 people, did not attend church services even once during the month of November. Yet we would not hesitate to say that the majority of these Americans would not want to live in a community from which the church and its influence had been removed.

In spite of all that is said about religion being a personal and private matter, very few ever learn it by themselves. From the very beginning of the preaching of the Christian Gospel by the twelve Apostles, the divine plan has been that those who have learned the Gospel of Jesus Christ, and have experienced its saving power in their lives, must share it with others. It has been this sharing of the Gospel which has produced the organized Church. Groups of Christian leaders banded themselves together into an organization for the Spiritual education of its members and for proclaiming the Gospel of Jesus Christ to men lost in sin and selfishness.

In the first Century of its existence, the Christian Church increased from 12 Apostles to a membership of 5,000,000.

Fresh from the experience of Pentecost which filled them with the power of the Holy Spirit, these early disciples went abroad with a flaming zeal to share with their fellowmen their new found power over sin and death. It was no holy crusade. They were convinced that the crucified and risen Christ had proclaimed the only way of salvation to a sin-cursed earth. Their hearts were filled with love toward their fellowmen, and deep yearning that they too might share their new found joy.

That was the message and the power of the Apostolic Church. Since that time no new agency has been set up for this holy purpose. No other agency has brought such blessings to mankind.

A wounded, heart-broken, sick world today sits in darkness, reaching out for that light which came to the world in the manger at Bethlehem. Christmas should be a happy but solemn reminder to those who profess the Christian faith, to support and revitalize the Christian Church, the custodian of peace and good will among men.

Our Policy

By Dorothy Thompson

NEW YORK

WE are in a fine mess, so every pot is calling the other kettle black, while earnest souls, cognizant of deterioration between the Allies, call for "unity." But unless all the Allies radically change their policies and go back to principles, there cannot conceivably be any unity.

Soviet policy is to achieve security by creating an outer belt of satellite states around the Soviet Union. Where they can do so they are backing and installing governments which, by social structure and Slavic tradition are likely to remain in the Soviet orbit. They have revived Pan-Slavism, and even the Orthodox Church for this purpose, and capitalize on socialist trends all over Europe.

In the case of Poland, regarded as potentially unreliable, they offer a great extension of territory at German cost, knowing that if Poland accepts, she will be, regardless of the present or future composition of her Government, irrevocably within the Soviet orbit as a defense necessity.

British policy is to create in Europe a western bloc, with a demarcation line between its interests and those of the Soviets, and through this to solidify under British leadership, the colonial world. The colonies of the world almost without exception, belong to Britain, France, Holland, Belgium, and Italy.

American policy is to make a security belt in the Western Hemisphere, to leave the question of disinterestedness in Soviet and British "spheres" open, and plan for a vast postwar export expansion. The reorganization of the State Department, has this in mind. In this latter ambition, collision is more likely with Britain than with the Soviet.

Meanwhile, we plan a World Organization for Peace, with all power centered in a Council dominated by the three great Allies, each possessing a veto over any measures that might affect their interests.

From the viewpoint of national self-interest all three policies can be supported—from the standpoint of future peace, they promise the next World War. The rioting in Greece is a symptomatic warning.

To overcome this dilemma the following are proposed.

1—Relief for the European peoples to quell rebellion born of desperation. This is vitally necessary but charity will not solve issues. Relief can be used for or against any one of the three policies. The Soviets are sharing their bread with Poles, and not merely out of a Christian heart.

2—Economic talks between the USA and Britain to modify British imperial policy by economic reassurance from America. This is too primitive an explanation of British policy; no economic problems can be solved for all along the financial lines laid down in Bretton Woods; a conference will accomplish nothing unless we are all prepared to start again from scratch, and since neither of us is so prepared, the conference would fail.

3—A new political conference between the Big Three.

The only way unity can ever be achieved is on the basis of principle. There is unity in the mathematics class on the basis that two and two makes four, at all times, and for everybody. There can be unity on the basis of law, aimed at equal justice and impartially applied.

There was unity, on basic principles, in the Atlantic Charter, drafted and signed by all the United Nations. That charter, recognized, for instance, the national idea, and asserted that peoples could not be transferred from one sovereignty to another except by their own consent. It repudiated, also, aggrandizement of any territory. These principles were applicable to victor and vanquished alike—in other words applicable.

But we accepted the idea of shoving around peoples, and basing the security of states on aggrandizement, and since each of these will bring new social and political troubles, and thus the necessity for greater security and force, to be won by new accretions of power, the inevitable result must be, that first, the interests of the smaller nations will be disregarded, and eventually the great powers will clash.

We are talking all around the issues. But if we don't face them right now, our peace will be lost. In this country and Britain, where the people are still free, we must insist on a return to principles.