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And Evening Chronicle

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The Silence

That of Voters Is More Important Than Willkie's

The silence of Wendell Willkie, though it is no match for that studied quiet of crafty Tom Dewey, is likely to increase its pressure as the weeks roll by. The enthusiasm of Republicans after the separating of the sheep and goats in Wisconsin, is passing. Frowns crease Old Guard brows, with the realization that, though Mr. Willkie is not so strong as Mr. Dewey, he has considerable weight to throw around.

It is not to be forgotten that the Willkie appeal is for the independent voters, great numbers of whom may swing the election in November. And it is in this field that Dewey has little or no following. The Old Guard cannot forget that, even though Willkie does not bolt the Party and re-enter the Democratic fold, his followers, seeing that the Republicans offer them nothing, may do just that.

Republicans and commentators are stressing the fact that Willkie, having just completed a savage indictment of the Democratic Administration, could scarcely join hands with Franklin Roosevelt now. Perhaps they are overlooking the possibility that thousands of voters may choose to remember, instead, his repeated attempts to set the Republicans aright, particularly on foreign policy. Who is to say that voters, even in Wisconsin, were not more impressed with Willkie's criticism of Republicanism than with his more or less routine blasts at the Democrats?

The coming discovery of the GOP that it cannot hope to win in November without Willkie's independents will be followed with the realization that even Willkie may be powerless to swing those votes to a man like Dewey. The independents come by their position honestly; they remain outside the strict party lines just for the purpose of being able to pick and choose as they wish. Seeing very clearly that they can hope for nothing from GOP regulars, they may well bolt the party themselves, regardless of Willkie's future stand. The Democrats may make a great gain here, whether or no Willkie surprises the nation by entering a coalition with Franklin Roosevelt.

Free Press?

Russia Is Still Far From That Goal

Last week Moscow permitted passage of a story claiming that the Kremlin no longer strictly controls news in the Soviet Union. It was announced that editors and writers had been given permission to express their own views. There should be no jumping at conclusions, no hurrahs from friends of press freedom. From what we can puzzle out of this story, the change is a minor one.

As examples of this new tangled freedom which gives a free rein to editors, these stories were quoted:

1. The Pravda story reporting Britain and Germany were making a separate peace in Portugal.

2. The savage attack on Pope Pius and the Vatican as aides to the Nazi cause.

3. The blast against Wendell Willkie's friendly comments on Russia.

All of these stories were received with suspicion in other United Nations, and all caused trouble at the possible meaning. There was little doubt, anywhere, that these stories had come from official Moscow. They had not the sound of stories written by editors in a free press. All seemed to have a common purpose. If this was the way in which the new-found Russian freedom was going to express itself, then the new order meant nothing.

And if the reason for the granting of this freedom was really that official Moscow was too busy with the war to keep a check-rein on the Army, Communist Party and Government organs, then this was no freedom at all. Russia's press, as in the past, is likely to remain under Government control as long as the present government is in power. This may be another closed instance of Russia's swing toward Democracy. It sounds like a pretty short swing to us.

U. S. Rubber

Its Contribution To The City Is Great

Stories in *The News* during the past week, permitted by censorship for the first time, revealed just how important a contribution to the war effort and community life was being made by the local plant of the U. S. Rubber Co. In addition to revealing the open secret that the huge plant was engaged in making naval ammunition, the stories announced that 9,600 employees, earning over $320,000 weekly, were working the full shifts.

Those figures, of course, hold more meaning for Charlotte than for the nation — though shells made here have been taking their toll of the enemy, all over the world — and this one plant was responsible for checking the dangerous migration of labor from Charlotte in the early months of the war. As the chief accomplishment of the anonymous War Industries Committee, the U. S. Rubber Co. plant has meant a great deal to the City, has done much to stabilize its economy without making of it a temporary boom town.

This week's presentation of the Army-Navy "E" award to the plant should thus be of more than passing interest to citizens of this section. Most of the plant's employees were drawn from Charlotte's immediate trading area, and offered them employment at a crucial time. Further, the prospect that U. S. Rubber will continue to operate here and become a valued member of the community's peacetime industrial family is cheering.

Charlotte itself, while the Army and Navy are honoring the establishment with a high award given for high and efficient production, might well pay its own respects.

New Theory

McDonald Has Found Voting Public Alert

Dr. Ralph McDonald, busy stirring about among the electorate, has discovered that there is not, as heretofore proclaimed, a state of apathy among the voters. He predicts, instead of a very light flutter of ballots, a comparatively heavy count, possibly as high as 450,000. Because he has been much closer to North Carolina's citizens in recent months we're willing to accept his estimate as it stands, and to revise previous estimates though we're not altogether convinced.

The silent vote of which he speaks is explained by the fact that the war dominates public interest, but underneath politics of interest is very hard to find. McDonald has found it so, then. His cause must be more advanced than that of other candidates at present for others never since Hindenburg did there is a general lack of interest in State races.

And at this, he says, there is a change. Some candidates have been seeing labels that McDonald would become interested in, by a considerable margin. Perhaps, McDonald says, the reasonable man is tired of the Doctor himself and may be judging the temper of the electorate because he is given to see enthusiasm for his candidacy on every hand.

Perhaps it is the view of McDonald headquarters that the doctor's chances will improve as a number of voters increase. Perhaps in addition, his supporters are counting upon a heavy soldier vote, which may or may not develop. In any instance, his discovery is an interesting one, and it develops that he was right. There will be every reason to cheer the fact that the North Carolina electorate, even at the crest of the war, turns willingly to its duty at the polls.

The Merry-Go-Round

By Drew Pearson

WASHINGTON

ONE factor which has worried the President about the Italian stalemate is the Italian political situation. Also, it has not alleviated his irritation with both Churchill and Stalin for helping to continue the Badoglio regime. Most people don't realize it, but Italian civilians are simply not aiding the Allies. This is in contrast to the earlier days of the Italian invasion, when civilians penetrated the German lines and were an extremely important factor in the Allied advance.

In fact, some experts believe that Naples might have held out a month longer than it did if Italian youths had not slipped over to the American lines at night to get ammunition and then returned to sabotage and harass the Nazis from the rear. They came literally begging for hand grenades to throw at the Nazis. Today, this anti-Nazi hostility is over, and we are getting little help from Italian civilians. Furthermore, there is a growing restlessness against the Allies in Southern Italy.

This is partly due to the fact that we have kept in power the former trappings of Fascism—namely, King Victor Emmanuel and Marshal Badoglio. It is also due to the bungling methods of AMG (Allied Military Government) and, finally, it is due to the difficult task of importing enough food. AMG, according to grapevine reports, got off to a bad start when it was placed under Lord Rennell of Rodd, a former J. P. Morgan partner, which firm was once Mussolini's banker and still has around $60,000,000 outstanding as interest on a loan.

The U. S. Army had trained a number of military governors at the University of Virginia, but the President once made the crack that the school was packed with Wall Street brokers. Selection of students for the governors' school has since changed.) At any rate, even Secretary Hull now says that conditions inside occupied Italy are no worse, as he puts it, than the German occupation. This is a serious admission and a long way from making the Allies the saviours of democracy and the champions of the four freedoms. So perhaps it is no wonder that Italian support has so completely evaporated.

NOTE—A survey of other factors causing the stalemate in Italy will follow soon.

Eden's Garden

It didn't leak out, but Col. John Leval, State Department expert on Near East oil, was called secretly before Senator Maloney's oil committee to testify regarding the proposed pipe-line through Arabia. Senators are still talking about some of the things he revealed during the five-hour off-the-record session.

Among other things, Leval warned that Russia was certain to fix her eyes on the Middle East and try to take over certain rich oil sections there. The Tigris and the Euphrates Valleys, Col. Leval told the committee, not only are rich in fertility, with tremendous irrigation possibilities, but also have an oil empire of 50,000,000,000 barrels—the key to peace or war.

After reminding Senators that this territory was certain to be the victim of a tug-of-war between Britain and Russia, Col. Leval added:

"You know this was the Garden of Eden."

to which Senator Brewster of Maine shot back:

"You mean the Garden of Petroleum Eden."

Without a moment's hesitation, Senator Vandenberg of Michigan flashed:

"No, the Garden of Anthony Eden."

NOTE — More is going to be heard from the Maloney committee as the Arabian Knights eclipse the Arabian Nights for public attention.

Lehman Falls

The mysterious whereabouts of UNRRA Chief Governor Herbert Lehman has now leaked out. The British censored it for a long time, but Lehman fell down the stairs of the British Embassy in Algiers and broke his kneecap.

For two weeks, U. S. officials waited for him in Cairo, did not know what had happened. Lehman had been scheduled to arrive for talks regarding relief in the Balkans. Finally, the mystery was cleared up when word came that a gala reception had been given him by the British in Algiers and that Lehman had fallen down the marble steps.

Either because the British didn't want it known that they were giving a party, or out of deference to Governor Lehman's feelings, they blocked transmission of the news. However, since Lehman is a most abstemious man and the fall could not have been related to alcohol, there seems no good reason for withholding publication. Certainly it is not going to help the enemy to know that the ex-Governor of New York fell down the stairs of the British Embassy.

Train Radio

The Rock Island Railroad has now put itself first on the list of roads trying to prevent wrecks by modern radio devices. It has hired a leading electronic engineer to put radio telephones on the Rock Island line.

He is Ernest A. Dahl, formerly of Western Electric, and also in charge of certain instructions for the U. S. Signal Corps. Under Dahl, the Rock Island plans to develop radio communication between trains, and between the brakeman and engineer of a train, through micro-waves. This is a field of high frequency radio waves which are very short, approaching the frequency of light and heat waves.

Through micro-waves, the Rock Island expects to overcome the problem of insufficient channels available for broadcasting. The railroad also hopes to develop the use of radar in preventing train wrecks.

"Clean Up, or Else—!"

—By Dorman Smith

Willkie Isn't Through Yet

By Marquis Childs

WASHINGTON

TO those who if who traveled with Wendell Willkie in Wisconsin, his withdrawal from the Presidential race comes as no surprise. He knew he was fighting a last-ditch battle with only a slim chance of success.

In fact, only a short time before he left on the Wisconsin campaign trip, he decided to call it all off. The reaction to his forthright stand on foreign and domestic issues had been discouraging. Just three weeks or so ago, I sat with him in his drawing room on the Twentieth on the way to the Middle-West. He talked frankly about his disappointment.

"You think I haven't a chance for the nomination, don't you?" he said to me. "Well, don't count me out yet. Sometimes I wonder why I put so much into this. Two weeks ago I drew up a statement stepping out. I had thought about it very carefully. I am very happy in my law practice. I like the kind of life I have. I don't need public office. It's a terrible grind. It means sacrificing so much."

The big fellow was serious. He was expressing thoughts close to his heart.

"Then that day I got a number of letters from people who believe in the things I stand for, and therefore they have faith in me. I tore the statement up. I decided to carry on the fight."

To my way of thinking, it was a gallant fight. We in this country tend to worship success. In the long perspective of history, Willkie's failure in this instance will, I believe, loom larger than any momentary and expedient "success." The man was more or less openly confessing his mistakes of the past. But apparently that is a luxury which politicians cannot afford. For my money it made him a bigger man.

Of course, he had two strikes on him in a race in the Republican party. First, he was a defeated candidate and, second, he is by nature a strong personal leader. Our political life will be poorer for his withdrawal. Just what his role may be in the future is now a question. I do not think he will ever again stand for public office. He has always been bored by the details of politics, the inevitable spade work.

But that Willkie has stepped out of politics in the broader sense is difficult to conceive. He still remains, in spite of the repudiation of the Middle-West, the articulate spokesman of many independent-minded voters. As such, what course he follows in the November election is important.

Already the isolationist Chicago Tribune is predicting that he will support Roosevelt for a fourth term. That to me is inconceivable if only because of Willkie's personal antipathy for the President. A good guess is that he will more or less follow the course he took when Dewey ran for Governor of New York in 1942. To some of his close associates, Willkie had intimated that he could not support the Republican choice. Toward the end of the race, however, he announced he would vote for Dewey.

If he does "take a walk", it will not, in my opinion, be into the Roosevelt camp. He might go so far as to express his conviction of the bankruptcy of both old parties and at the same time declare for the formation of a new party. Such a new party would be for the future since, in the nature of our election laws, it could not play a part in 1944.

Well, it was a good try that Willkie made. I'm glad I saw a part of it. His stature is no less than it was a week ago.

Quote, Unquote

THIS reflected glory is getting to be a bit of a nuisance. When I took my watch to be repaired in South Africa the world and his mother wanted to know why I was late yesterday and afterward was asked to impart a gazed of bonhomie.

—Capt. the Rev. Colin Montgomerie, British Eighth Army General's brother.

Several times our cook, whom we knew as Nick the Greek, begged to be taken along on harassing raids, and we finally consented. While we dropped small bombs, Nick crouched grinning at an open gun port and ladled out garbage that he had accumulated for several days.

—Lt. Abraham Hellman, back from Cape Gloucester.

I have never taken the view that the end of the war in Europe is at hand or that Hitler is about to collapse, and I have certainly given no guarantee or even held out any expectation that the year 1944 will see the end.

—Winston Churchill.

Young people must be helped to participate in democracy and identify it as such. They should learn that a democratic society is good for them and democratic experience is satisfying.

—Ordway Tead, chairman New York Board of Higher Education.

There is no royal road to learning or to personal value.

—Dr. Robert G. Sproul, president University of California.

Week's Politics

By Samuel Grafton

NEW YORK

THE Willkie washout in Wisconsin raises the question of how in the heck we are going to sell the American people on internationalism. Mr. Willkie didn't get many delegates. Was that the customers' fault, was his merchandise no good, or what? Let's begin by tearing up and throwing away all explanations which hold that the American people are thick in the head, or unawakened, etc. You cannot believe in the people and also believe that the people are weak in the noodle.

If the people (even the Republican people of Wisconsin) didn't vote for internationalism that was either because they had thought it over and didn't want it, or because a poor case was made out for it. The theory might be offered that an inferior case was, in point of fact, made out for internationalism in Wisconsin.

It was not a good case. It was all about how there ought to be an international council to settle everything, some big meeting room somewhere; how no country ought to be allowed to do anything without the consent of Bolivia and Luxembourg; how we all have to agree on every border. The matter was never stated in bread-and-butter terms. It was an appeal for votes for Utopia. But Utopia is not an issue in the next election.

The people were asked to approve our joining some sort of elegant and stately international club. They could not focus clearly on this club, which is not surprising, because no one else can, either.

The voters know perfectly well that Russia is not going to let an international club decide the question of her western borders, just as they know in their hearts that we would not accept an international decision if it were a matter of restoring a once-stolen Maine and New Hampshire to ourselves. They sensed that this approach lacked reality.

There sense of reality was further offended by the old League of Nations plea that we must help to save the world from collapse; that, if we do not join in, like good fellows, world affairs will go to ruin. Many of these high-minded arguments belong to the fight for the last peace. A world of a reborn Britain and a Red Army is not going to collapse if we stay out. Our own affairs might collapse. But that is a different story. And it was not told.

The fact that Mr. Willkie could rebuff Russia's border claims while presenting "the case for internationalism" shows that he presented the case on an extremely rarefied and unreal level. Few will die for that kind of internationalism, or even vote for it, because nobody really knows what it is, except for the feeling that it lacks edges. Mr. Willkie's case was a fine moral case. Morality is the mainspring of action in this warm and generous man. But morality as a substitute for action is something else again.

Mr. Willkie, as we gave the voters a chance to decide, is morality, actually, he could have made "the case for internationalism" on the level of pure, raw American national interest. He could have had the broken set of three bombshells he was given