THE CHARLOTTE NEWS

An Evening Chronicle

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Armed Camp

Our Leaders Insist On Peacetime Strength

Next to a breathless national interest in the coming invasion of Europe which will lead to victory, America's chief concern at this moment is with the future course of this country in international affairs. And there are growing signs on every hand that our leaders do not plan to put their faith in a world brotherhood of nations; they are causing despair among idealists, but they will have none of a League of Nations. They are thinking of security in terms of armament.

This is not a vague impression. Evidence piles up daily. In yesterday's news, for example, were these indications:

1. General Patton declared in England that Britons and Americans were destined to rule the world, and added that they must get together and stick together. (This was answered by Senator Johnson, who branded the talk as "nonsensical", and there was a denial that the General spoke for the Army).

2. The Senate, approving the giant Naval appropriations bill, declared that the U. S. would maintain a strong peacetime Navy—"the unconquerable master of the sea."

3. A Washington dispatch in the *Wall Street Journal* reported that our war economy would be only partially demobilized after victory, and added that disarmament might be counterbalanced by new steps to increase our peacetime military striking power.

4. Under Secretary of Navy Forrestal, speaking of postwar plans, said that, though we need not abandon hope for a world association of nations, we must approach that time with reality—and that the huge sea and air strength now created in the Navy was necessary.

5. Washington planners, making an official report, spoke (though vaguely) of acquiring possession of Lend-Lease bases in the Atlantic and Pacific, as future safeguards.

6. General Palmer of the War Department, urging compulsory military training in peacetime, attacked the nation's military policy of neglecting its forces during peace, and "extemporizing" during war. He added that Allied unpreparedness was the fundamental cause of this war.

That is evidence enough, we think, to show the drift of responsible American thinking. Big business, from every sign, is in agreement, having come to the conclusion that preparedness is the more economical course. And though there is still talk of an international family of nations, there is American determination to enter that family well-armed. The men who lead us in this direction are realists, and we have no doubt that public opinion will applaud. There is just one little item there has been time to not mentioned: If the United States retains its arms, other nations will follow suit to the limits of their abilities. Even if this world, lamentably, is fit for nothing better than life in an armed camp of nation. It behooves the U. S. to back her ideals with force.

Maybe there's an old Russian proverb to the effect that diplomacy is what you need when you haven't anything else.

Second Step

Action Against Meadows Will Settle Some Doubts

The true bill returned by the Pitt County Grand Jury charging President Leon Meadows of East Carolina Teachers College with embezzlement of college funds is, as we see it, almost as much an indictment of the college board of trustees as of Dr. Meadows. Regardless of the Grand Jury's findings or the subsequent disposal of the case, it is well that the action is being taken into the courts.

The trustees, in exonerating Dr. Meadows of the charge in a recent hearing, left the impression that the case had been closed over. There was the opinion in many quarters that a double whitewashing had taken place. Whether or not that was true, court action should be welcomed. For, one way or another, public confidence in the fiscal direction of the State educational system should be restored and maintained.

Whether it develops that Dr. Meadows was merely the victim of an old and inefficient system, incapable of handling college funds, or remiss in his duties, it is to the public advantage that the matter be settled. It was obvious, from testimony of State officials before the college board, and from a statement by Governor Broughton, that the State had a deep interest in the case, and that its concern was greater than that of the trustees. That interest is reflected in the present proceedings in Pitt County.

For the missiles encountered in this war, says an ordnance authority, the bullet-proof vest is no protection. Not even if the heart is in the mouth.

Tax Policy

Mr. Bradshaw Explains How It Pays Off

G. D. Bradshaw, an invaluable public servant as County Accountant, has reported to us on the matter of Mecklenburg's tax policies, and has presented a most pleasing picture. Everyone knows, of course, that County fiscal matters have been in excellent condition for many years. Mr. Bradshaw says that the present Board of Commissioners represents an all-time high, so far as he knows, and that the business of the County is operated more efficiently now than ever before. He was concerned, in specific, with a *News* story of this month commenting on tax rates, valuation and expectancy of tax collections.

The story, it appears, was in error. Calculating the difference in revenue yield on valuations of $160 millions and $163,434,015, it reported that the increase in the actual tax yield would be more than $150,000. Actually, the increase was only a little more than $21,000. In explanation of the County policy of setting a low rate of expectancy, Mr. Bradshaw reports that there is a policy of "not kidding ourselves." Once, when Commissioners yielded to the urge to set the rate of expectancy higher than usual, they met with disaster.

Henceforth, they intend to follow a sound, conservative policy of setting expectancy and valuation low, reducing tax rates whenever possible (they'll be reduced soon for the fourth straight year), and putting aside the available surplus for the purpose of debt retirement. That policy of putting aside surplus funds—after putting the necessary amount toward next year's tax rate—is about to pay dividends.

In 1946 the tax rate would jump with added costs of debt service, if the Commissioners had not already set aside funds to meet that emergency. The increased debt costs, beginning in that year and ending in 1950, are the result of a bond issue of 1870, on which over $900,000 has been paid in interest, with about $369,000 remaining to be paid. This policy of conservatism has also paid off, Mr. Bradshaw reports, in removing a sizeable indebtedness to local banks, rolling up a $400,000 fund now in war bonds, and in preparing the County for any possible emergency.

The average tax yield for the past twelve years has been a fraction over 82 per cent, and though that of the past five years has been higher, the County government is determined to take no chances, to proceed in the knowledge that rainy days may be coming. From that angle, Mecklenburg's government is in an enviable position, and is recognized by financial firms as of the highest standing in the Southeast.

The great Dunninger sees a surrealist painting through three heavy wrappings, and a question arises whether his strange powers are gifts or a liability.

The Merry-Go-Round

By Drew Pearson

WASHINGTON

BOTH Democrats and Republicans are studying a little-noticed incident which occurred in the key State of Maryland last week when Senator Millard Tydings, long-time bitter enemy of the President and vice versa, went into great detail before a Baltimore audience to prove that he and Roosevelt loved each other like long-lost brothers.

Democrats point to this as a sure sign that FDR can beat all comers if he runs for a fourth term. They further point to the fact that Maryland, sitting astride the Mason-Dixon Line, has never gone wrong in any Presidential election. Republicans scratch their heads and are wondering.

Anyway, here is what happened. Tydings, up for re-election this year, was considered a sure-shot winner in the Democratic primaries, when suddenly he got worried, and invaded a political meeting of his opponent, Willis Jones. There, for two hours, Tydings harangued the crowd, answering Jones' charges against him, one of which was that Tydings had consistently opposed the President.

In reply, Tydings made the amazing statement that the "President calls me daily." He also waved before the audience a letter from the President thanking him for putting through the resolution continuing the present term of the Philippine Commonwealth when President Quezon was supposed to step down last November. Triumphantly, Tydings pointed to the President's sign-off line which read: "With kindest regards."

Tydings further stated: "The President calls me often. I go down to the White House to see him. We talk like two human beings. He's interested in keeping this country in good shape, and am I. He frustrated me with the most delicate things, called me daily from the White House. So don't get up, Willis, and give the people that baloney."

Naturally, most Maryland voters, remembering the bitter purge campaign of 1938 when FDR invaded Maryland to try to defeat Tydings, take this with tongue-in-cheek. Tydings' votes against practically all Roosevelt legislation, including many of his war policies before Pearl Harbor, are a matter of record.

But what interests the politicos is not Tydings' record, with which everyone is familiar, but the fact that he felt it necessary to go to such extreme lengths to deny his record and to profess his close friendship with the President. In the barometer State of Maryland, they consider this extremely significant.

No Need To Vote

Debonair "Chip" Robert, former Secretary of the Democratic National Committee, was visiting his birthplace at Monticello, Ga., the other day, and bumped into an elderly Negro whose father had run for Congress against Chip's grandfather during reconstruction days and had beaten him.

"Uncle," remarked Chip, "I see the Supreme Court has given you folks the right to vote again."

To which the Negro replied: "Mister Chip, I figures that, as long as Mrs. Roosevelt and the Chief keep on being elected, I don't care nothing about votin'."

Stimson And Knox

Those who heard Secretary of War Stimson and Secretary of the Navy Knox in the closed-door session with representatives of big business say they made a magnificent, stirring appeal for a labor draft, but that the business executives remained unmoved. The national service question continues to be one case where business, the CIO and the farmers all agree.

The business men present complained a bit afterward that they had been called in to be lectured, and that they had no chance to express their views. Only one man, Eric Johnston, president of the U. S. Chamber of Commerce, managed to get in a word in reply). However, the one-sidedness of the meeting probably was necessary, due to the fact that such a large group was present.

About sixty representatives of the U. S. Chamber, the National Association of Manufacturers and the American Association of Railway Executives were called into the office record search, where they found awaiting them the Secretaries of War and Navy, Chief of Staff General Marshall, Commander of the Fleet Admiral King, Chairman of the Maritime Commission Admiral Land, Senator Warren Austin, co-author of the Austin-Wadsworth national service bill, and several others.

Secretary Stimson and Secretary Knox led off. Stimson was especially impressive, and talked to the executives—as he expressed it privately—"like a Dutch uncle."

Business Unconvinced

The business executives sat and listened. Only flare-up occurred when scholarly Senator Austin of Vermont took the floor. A sincere, hard-hitting Republican who has cooperated on all of Roosevelt's war policies, Austin went after the U. S. Chamber of Commerce pretty hard. Accusing the Chamber of not even being willing to consider a national service act, he continued:

"You have struck hands with labor and agriculture to oppose one of the most important measures necessary to win the war."

Here President Johnson of the U. S. Chamber interrupted:

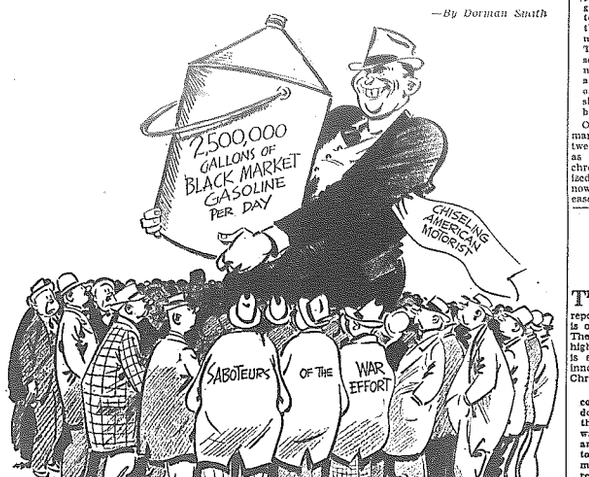
"I beg your pardon, Senator, but we have not struck hands with labor and agriculture. We have not been invited to any other meeting to discuss this, and the only other discussions we have had have been on the advisory committee of the War Production Board, where it has been deemed advisable to try voluntary labor methods, rather than compulsion."

Senator Austin expressed his appreciation for this correction, and the meeting proceeded. After talks from General Marshall, Admiral King and Admiral Land, the business executives were excused. They left impressed with the sincerity of the War and Navy Department's views, but still convinced that voluntary methods with labor were more effective. As one of them remarked later:

"England has had a compulsory labor system, but it didn't prevent the Liverpool dock strike which tied up war shipping, or the British coal strike."

Head And Shoulders Above The Crowd

—By Dorman Smith



The Plight Of The Neutrals

By Marquis Childs

WASHINGTON

THE European neutrals sitting this war out find themselves under pressure to stop supplying aid to Germany. Both the United States and Britain are getting hard-nailed, or at any rate their attitude is a lot firmer than it was a few months ago.

Reaction to Secretary Hull's speech, in which he disclosed that the smaller countries are being persuaded to alter their policy, has been overwhelmingly favorable. Without looking closely into the reasons why, Americans find it difficult to understand how Spain, Sweden and Turkey could go on trading with an enemy that has destroyed the independence of every other European country.

First result of the new policy is announcement from Ankara that Turkey will export no more chrome. That is bad news for Germany, which is dependent on foreign sources for a considerable part of this essential metal. Spain is still a stubborn holdout. Little Dictator Franco has not concealed his sympathies with the Axis. He is, in fact, part of the Axis and the only reason he talks softly today is because he knows that his friend, Hitler, cannot win.

What we want is to have Spain stop selling wolfram, all important source of tungsten for steel, to the Nazis. The Franco crowd has been playing a clever game with us on wolfram. Our economic experts have gone over to what they call "preclusive buying." They buy the precious wolfram to keep it out of Nazi hands even if it has to be dumped into the ocean.

But as our money flowed in, the Spaniards mined more and more wolfram and the "surplus" went to the Germans. Before the war, only a few hundred tons were mined, the price was about $1,000 a ton.

Last year Spain produced more than 3,000 tons of wolfram. Pitting us against German bidders, the Spanish got fantastic prices. Altogether, Germany obtained about one-third of last year's total production. Small wonder that Americans are resentful! Without Spain's wolfram, the Nazi steel industry would be in trouble.

As for the Swedes, they have cut down their shipments of high grade iron ore to Germany from the pre-war high of 10,000,000 tons to 7,000,000 tons. This was the figure set in a trade treaty signed with England and America last January. At the same time, the Swedes agreed to reduce the volume of ballbearings shipped to the Reich, and in spite of recent rumors to the contrary, they say they are keeping within this agreement.

Sweden's case differs from that of Spain and Turkey. British and American ships can go into the ports of the other two neutrals to supply minimum necessities in return for Spanish and Turkish goods. Caught inside Hitler's Europe, the Swedes get only small amounts through the German blockade. They are dependent, for example, on Germany for coal to keep their industries going.

A year ago I was in Sweden with four other American newspaper men at the invitation of the Swedish Government. We found the Swedish people overwhelmingly opposed to Nazism and in sympathy with the cause of the Allies. Many, in fact, seemed to feel their Government had been too timid and too legalistic. That Government, made up of representatives of all parties, has now decided to stand on the January agreement, rejecting the plea to cut shipments of vital materials.

For Americans fighting a war in which sons and brothers and husbands are being killed, it is hard to understand how another democratic country can feel that way. On the other hand, it is impossible to imagine, 5,000 miles away, what it feels like to sit for five years under the shadow of Hitler menace. It is hard to overcome a habit of caution growing out of the Armageddon of the past five years.

The small countries, whether occupied or neutral, have rights that the big powers are bound to respect if any civilized order is to come out of this present hell. What goes even now on the eve of the war's great teating.

Quote, Unquote

WE must create what the people themselves have learned that that they need and want.
—Hugh Pomeroy, president American Institute of Planners.

Those who fear we face the task of feeding Europe for a long period do not realize that agriculture is the first thing to come back after a war.
—Dr. Henry F. Grady of the Allied Control Commission.

Every lesson of modern warfare points to one inescapable conclusion—mastery of the skies is a prerequisite to the invasion of Europe.
—Maj.-Gen. Frank O. D. Hunter, 1st Air Force.

The magnitude of our total war production is now equal to the combined war output of the rest of the world.
—War Manpower Director Paul V. McNutt.

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"It's going to be a tough season, all right—there goes our cleanup hitter!"

Everyday Counselor

By Rev. Herbert Spaugh

"YOU can't do wrong and feel right," declared Dr. Peter Marshall of Washington, D. C., in a recent sermon. He was speaking to those who had lost the radiance of living, those who had lost the morning glow of Christian experience. No one who has been introduced to the Lord is "ever going to be completely comfortable in the company of the devil. The still small voice of conscience without ceases in being heard even if every effort is made to muffle its tone.

It is quite true that many have gone far afield from the Christian teachings of home and childhood. Some of them have fallen so low that their reclamation seems impossible; furthermore they don't appear to desire it. Others have gone so far away in their materialism and sophistication that it would appear they never had a thought of God. The still small voice has been so submerged that they will never admit to hearing it, and are all too often unconscious of it. Some have completely sinned away their day of grace, but their number is few.

On my desk is a letter from a man whose life was ruined for twenty years by alcohol. Starting as a social drinker he became a chronic and had to be hospitalized and institutionalized. He is now completely free of the disease through the work of the Alcoholics Anonymous. He writes me from the Washington Chapter of that organization, "It's great to be among happy folks, fortunate folks. I feel we former alcoholics are indeed fortunate to have had to accept a new way of life."

This man has told me that all during the years of his heavy drinking, time and again the still small voice within him reminded him of the Christian teachings of his childhood home. He knew he was doing wrong and felt wrong.

My friend sent me these lines on the wall of an Alcoholics Anonymous club room: "Think of stepping on shore and finding Heaven; of taking hold of a hand and finding it to be God's hand." Remember, no matter how far we may have gone away, as long as we hear that call within us we can come back home to the Father's house;" sins can be confessed, wrongs righted. "If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness . . . and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanses us from all sin."

(If you would like to know more about the work of the Alcoholics Anonymous write to the Everyday Counselor in care of the newspaper in which you read this, enclosing 6-cent postage to pay for mailing literature.)

Vote For Inflation

By Samuel Grafton

NEW YORK

THERE is something so naked about the Smith Committee's report to the House that the effect is one of almost charming candor. The committee wants higher prices, higher rents and lower wages. That is all. It is as one-sided and as innocently arrogant as a child's Christmas list.

The Hon. members of the committee have simply put down on paper everything that their hearts pine for. They want a bicycle with red wheels, and they want the government to guarantee every business man a profit. They want a real, live Shetland pony, and they want no damages to be assessed against price violators. They want no back wage orders running more than three months, so that if a wage dispute is dragged on longer than three months, the labor force involved can be starved out. They want the whole world, and also a clarinet just like Benny Goodman's.

The Hon. members have written down their day-dreams and called it a report. One proposal says that if a business man's costs go up, his prices must be allowed to go up, too, regardless of his profits. But another proposal says that if certain workers in any industry are receiving substandard wages, they must go right on receiving substandard wages, which are on no account to be raised. The document is as primitive as that.

This is a catalogue of itches, a compendium of yens. One turns away from this report with a sense of embarrassment, as if one had invaded the Hon. members' privacy, and had inadvertently been reading their private mail, or their diaries. Hide it, quickly. One doesn't want to know that much about anybody.

Messrs. Smith (Howard W., of Virginia), Peterson (Ga.), Jennings (Tenn.), Hartley (N. J.), and, of course, Hoffman (Mich.), have solemnly reported to the House of Representatives that they want what they want when they want it.

And Mr. Smith is the hero of a similar episode, dating back to 1939, when he first introduced a resolution to investigate the National Labor Relations Board. His resolution called the Board so many bad names that it made a minor scandal in the House. It was there pointed out to Mr. Smith that, in the ordinary course of events, conclusions are supposed to follow an investigation, not precede it. Mr. Smith hastily withdrew his resolution and wrote a more polite one.

In a sense, his new report is an outgrowth of that incident, for Mr. Smith was, actually, not empowered to investigate the question of inflation, but only to investigate the day-to-day workings of the government agencies. Instead, he has come in and placed on teacher's desk a plan for a wholly new economic program, and one, as has been remarked, which is so naked that, in common decency, a policeman's coat ought to be clapped hastily around the shivering thing.

Two committee members, Delaney, (N. Y.) and Voorhis (Cal.) have filed a furious dissent. My own emotion is one of simple astonishment, as if I stood in the presence of a great natural wonder.

At a time when priests are Partisans and when Eric Johnstons speak up for organized labor; at a time when civilized men, all over the world, are learning the hard lesson of compromise as the alternative to chaos, one cannot really be angry, one can only be amazed at the sight of these men bringing in their bald plan for higher prices and lower wages. There is something close to innocence about it all. These men want to have their own way. And they are so happy about it.

They are utterly delighted, as if they had just thought of something brand-new, and perfectly wonderful. Their eyes shine, and they haven't a doubt in the world. This is perhaps the most impressive demonstration of naive singlemindedness ever seen in Washington, and one hesitates to spoil it by reciting the facts of life to them. I think their hearts might break.

Reporter's Notebook

(Continued from Page One)

The morning after the first big glider attack on Fortress Europe, they took a look around to see what they had accomplished. What they found was a beautiful, unobstructed landing strip in a semi-deserted SPEED MERCHANT.

Observation for hundreds of miles outside the province of little Club-type planes which hop around inside the established perimeter. It showed the Germans the P-51 that can lead the speediest ME-109 squarely in the nose.

Then, the beachhead formed into trench warfare, counter-battery fire has become increasingly important. Four of these observation planes are based out each day, thanks to the visual fire direction from the air, which the Luftwaffe cannot stop, bridges by heavy American howitzers.

UNGLAMORIZED

Artillery Capt. Paul R. Lowry of Beaumont, Texas, briefs the pistol-packers here as to their targets and describes them as "the most unglamorized kids in the air".

"Yesterday one of the pilots, Lt. Owen J. Lee of Nashville, Tenn., caught a packet of flak, just barely righted his plane from a spin and bailed out while he was diving at 300 miles an hour at Anzio harbor," Lowry said.

Two days ago Lt. Wilbur A. Tapscott of San Francisco was on a spotting flight when flak tore a hole two feet wide in his wings. He crashlanded safely in the beachhead for the second time since D-Day.

Lowry talks to his friends in the air via a jeep with radio. When they tell him the target, "Black Magic" or "Sugar Baby" (they change the names every day) has been blanketed by the artillery concentration, he rests easy. They always bring air photographs to prove it.

New Hope Seen In Saving Soil

HARTSVILLE, S. C. — Ernest Carnes, State Conservationist of the Soil Conservation Service, speaking before the Pilot Club, called attention to some of the conditions existing in the state which he described as deplorable—the exploitation of soil and forests through ignorance and thoughtlessness, and the possible effects of the increasing use of synthetic fibers.

As a remedy for this situation Mr. Carnes recommended wiser use of the land with greater production per acre; and soil and water conservation through the adopting of soil conservation plans, and read an interesting statement from a farmer giving the actual dollars and cents value of the operation of such a plan on his farm. Mr. Carnes spoke of a "two-armed system of agriculture"—combining crops and livestock; and ended his talk with the optimistic note that with careful planning and carrying out of the plans the outlook for "tomorrow's agriculture in South Carolina is one of hope for the tiller of the soil."

Censorship Code Stirs Australia

SYDNEY, Australia —(AP)— Chief Justice Sir Frederick Jordan said in full court today that the action of Commonwealth peace officers in bringing contempt of court proceedings against owners of the Sydney Morning Herald while the whole censorship controversy is before the courts appears to be an attempt to stifle public criticism.

The Herald had published a letter from a reader discussing the censorship question while a Government attempt to prosecute Australian newspapers for alleged violations of the censorship code is pending before a special Federal Court.

Jordan ordered the contempt of court proceedings postponed until the Federal Court magistrate had completed the pending case, but Government counsel argued the delay would constitute "shutting the stable door after the horse has gone."

Jordan replied that "it seems to me the stable door you want to shut is public criticism."

"She really isn't interested in listening to those campaign speeches on the radio—it's just that a girl likes to hear some man promise her everything"