THE CHARLOTTE NEWS

And Evening Chronicle

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Dr. Odum

He Receives Deserved Honor For His Work

The Catholic Committee of the South, conferring its award for "significant contribution to the welfare and progress of the South" upon Dr. Howard W. Odum, paid honor to a most deserving leader of our section. The Kenan professor of sociology at the University of North Carolina is largely responsible for the development of the marked trend toward realism in the South; he has done a great deal toward bringing this section to a rational view of its problems.

The Committee spokesman put it in these words: "among the real thinkers of the South, romanticism has been driven out by sane realism." Dr. Odum, through his work at Chapel Hill, and especially through his monumental work, *Southern Regions*, contributed much toward this accomplishment. He has turned a sharp, revealing light upon the Southeast, and has made our pressing problems obvious to the point that a public cry for progress was inevitable.

The spokesman (who was from Chicago), uttered these words at the ceremony:

The section's new leaders carefully and diligently survey the resources, natural, cultural, and economic, of the southland — and seek a solution of them.

Realistic Southerners no longer refuse to recognize low standards of living, race relations and inequal economic opportunities, adding they are not afraid to enumerate and describe these problems and to weigh the social gravity.

He was speaking largely of Dr. Odum, for his part in the creation of this new attitude has been great. It was ironic that another speaker, earlier, has taken an altogether different tack, intimating that he disapproved the work of Dr. Odum:

"Throughout our country's history, no section has been more independent, more jealous of its rights and individualism than the South."

The lesson is clear enough: If we are to solve Southern problems we must make ourselves more worthy of "independence," or surrender our rights while outside agencies undertake the task.

Veterans

They'll Be Cared For In Mecklenburg

There is every reason to believe that Mecklenburg County is going to discharge its duty to its returning veterans of this war in the highest sense. The objective is not yet achieved, but cooperation of the twelve agencies named by Mayor Baxter to participate in the rehabilitation center last week will insure success.

Some 20,000 men and women will be returning to civilian life here after the war—and many of them will return before the end. The Federal Government, despite a liberal program of aid and rehabilitation, cannot possibly care for every need of the veterans, and that leaves a local responsibility. Further, most veterans will need outside help in obtaining Federal aid, and that is to be a prime purpose of the County's organization.

A downtown center, easily available, is intended to offer all possible help to the veterans. It will offer listings of possible employment, help to orient men and women in civilian life in many ways, and to understand Federal provisions made for them. This service will be invaluable, and the committee of 16 will bear a major responsibility.

If this becomes a national movement, with thousands of American communities doing their best to supplement Federal aid to veterans, we will not face again the post-war problems of veteran unemployment as they existed in the early twenties, and we will not commit the crime of neglect which led to a "lost generation" of ex-soldiers. It is the obvious duty of Mecklenburg's people and their agencies to give their utmost support to this move.

Late Rebels

The Die Will Be Cast Before Byrdmen Are Set

The Byrd - For - President movement, which is developing slowly and unimpressively, hits a high spot in today's local meeting, and brings to mind the fact that this campaign is unfolding so late in the game that its leaders may be looking beyond the Democratic National Convention—or even beyond the Democratic Party. There was some disagreement in the recent Greensboro session as to whether the rebels would join the Republicans, and now the time factor indicates that they might have that course in mind, or that they may be aiming for 1948.

County delegates to the State convention were chosen Saturday, and the State convention itself comes off on Thursday. It's too late in the game for the Byrdmen to sweep the floor in Raleigh, and it is expected that North Carolina's delegation will be instructed to vote unanimously for Roosevelt.

Further, an announcement of last week concerning today's pow-wow mentioned a "permanent" organization, which would seem to indicate that the aims of this group are set beyond conventions, perhaps beyond November. There is obviously the hope that, if Mr. Roosevelt does not seek a Fourth Term, the young movement will have gained sufficient momentum to put Harry Byrd in the forefront by convention time. But chances of that development being slim, these dissenters may well be in position to join the Republicans, or simply to settle down and consolidate their gains for another election year.

As a matter of practical politics, the movement seems to have little chance of success, except through a long-range program. In the midst of a pretty solid Roosevelt belt, talk of "strong support" for Senator Byrd doesn't quite ring true.

Squabbles

International Labor Group Has Plenty

The efforts of the International Labor Organization to revive itself as a powerful means of achieving progress in the post-war world are faced with formidable handicaps. Its first sessions have revealed differences as great as any which are to be shown at the peace table and the subsequent parleys on world order. And this, we suppose, was inevitable, in view of the varied national ambitions, the fogs which obscure the future, and the internal division between nations themselves.

The first bombshell came from Moscow, as the official Soviet paper, *Izvestia*, charged that ILO was a bankrupt organization clinging to the old League of Nations principles. The answer from Madam Perkins was quick and stinging. ILO, she said, was vigorous and alive, as any fool kin plainly see. She declared that its organization would be, on the word of President Roosevelt, integrated with a United Nations order when that came into being, and intimated that Russia's desires for workers of the world were being given consideration.

Almost immediately, the whole kit and kaboodle sat idly by while members from the British Empire went through a family squabble. The Indian representatives spoke for a permanent, central, committee to inspect working conditions in all countries of the world. They charged that a report from a committee in Great Britain would always be a whitewashing of conditions, and would say nothing for Indian workers. There was the hint that workingmen in India held no bright hopes for the future under British rule, and that the masses would have passively accepted a Japanese conquest.

There is a problem ILO won't settle in Philadelphia. The organization, we fear, has many cruel years ahead of it, before it operates in harmony—or before working conditions in many countries become decent or acceptable.

The Merry-Go-Round

By Drew Pearson

WASHINGTON

MIRACLES don't often happen in labor relations, but peace and love now reign between the tough maritime workers and the ship lines.

Though the main factor is a common desire to pull together for the war, one factor has been regular meetings between all union chiefs and all ship-line executives in the Maritime Commission in Washington. There, both sides lay their cards on the table and tell what they think of each other.

Last week, husky, hard-boiled Joe Curran, head of the National Maritime Union, actually went so far as to invite ship-operator representatives into his union hiring halls to assist in the shipping assignments of seamen. Ship operators almost fell off their chairs when Curran made this astounding suggestion.

"For seven years," he admitted, "I have fought to keep the companies out of the hiring halls. But now I'm inviting them in so we can work together for the war.

"That," he chuckled, "is what a war will do."

However, Curran coupled his olive branch with an attack on one operator—Standard Oil—for hoarding manpower. He charged that Standard Oil operated a "private pool" of seamen for its own tankers. These extra seamen, he said, were being kept ashore and used in other jobs, even though they had been given draft deferments as essential seamen supposed to be at sea. By this process, Curran claimed, Standard attempts to build up a backlog of non-union seamen and thus have enough in reserve to escape using union men.

Action Demanded

"My union won't put up with idle workers," the NMU leader declared. "My union prohibits members from staying on shore longer than two days for each week at sea, or a maximum of 30 days at any one time. The Government should enforce the same rule throughout the industry."

"Manpower policies should be administered without discrimination," spoke up E. A. Jimison, an official of the Lykes Bros. Steamship Co. of New Orleans and New York. "Everybody should be treated alike in wartime and made to toe the mark."

War Shipping Administration officials replied that they had investigated Standard Oil's "beaching" of workers, presumably done to build up a backlog of non-union employees, but said they doubted that WSA had authority to dictate the company's hiring methods.

"Well, let's cut out the monkey business," exploded Curran. "This war is everybody's responsibility, and manpower is our biggest bottleneck. Are you going to let this sort of thing go on?"

"There's one thing we can do," declared Marshall Dimock, labor assistant to WSA deputy administrator E. M. Macaulay. "We can see to it that the Selective Service System cancels the deferments of seamen who don't work at their occupation. If Standard Oil persists in beaching its maritime workers, a lot of them are going to wake up in the armed forces."

Too Much Rankin

Ever since the soldier's vote bill debate, Republican Congressmen have suffered from the charge that they were being dictated to by raucous Representative Rankin of Mississippi. This has become more than a mere joke. In some areas, where the Negro vote can swing a Congressional election one way or the other, it has become very serious. For Rankin will never be forgotten by certain minority groups.

All this had significant repercussions the other day in the House of Representatives when Congressman Clare Hoffman of Michigan, noisiest of all Republicans, rose to defend himself against the book, "Under Cover." While he spoke, Rankin kept jumping up and down on the Democratic side of the aisle, trying to advise Hoffman on how to proceed. Finally, Republican Hoffman exploded:

"I've been accused of following the leadership of the gentleman from Mississippi," he said. "And the Republican Party has been accused of following the gentleman. Right now, I'd like to proceed in my own way."

Wasted Plant

This column has frequently criticized waste of public funds on war contracts. A particular spectacle of wasteful spending exists in Granite City, Illinois, where a big armor-plate and tank-turret plant was completed about a year ago at a $26,000,000 cost to the taxpayers.

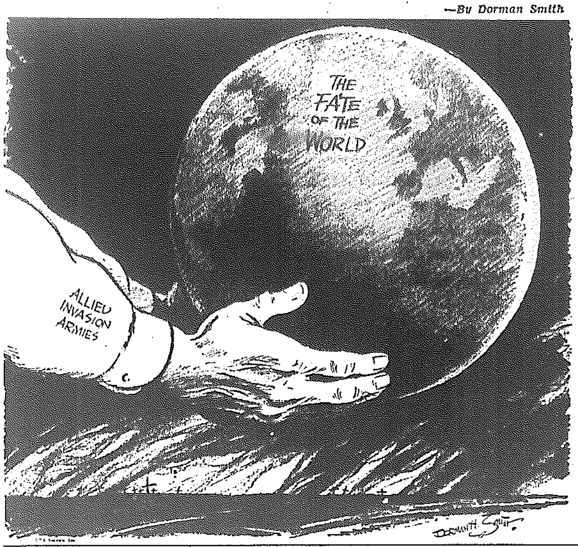
Now, for some unexplained reason, the Army Ordnance Department has abandoned it except for a few buildings which have been turned over to a manufacturer of steel springs. The Granite City project required two years to build, and funds were dumped promiscuously into it to make all facilities ultra-modern. Everything was to be electrically operated, including five large open hearth furnaces and eighteen smaller, heat-treating furnaces. They set the Government back $8,000,000.

More than $10,000,000 was spent for building construction. Only about half of the new buildings are now occupied by the private spring manufacturer and these had to be remodeled at an additional cost of $382,000 when the War Department decided to abandon the plant.

The only individual who has bestirred himself is young GOP Congressman Calvin Johnson of Illinois. Johnson is trying to interest the Navy Department in using the abandoned plant to produce turrets for ships.

In Good Hands

—By Dorman Smith



Willkie's Still Alive

By Marquis Childs

WASHINGTON.

WENDELL WILLKIE may have been eliminated from the Republican race for the Presidential nomination, but what course he follows in the Fall could determine the success or failure of the GOP nominee.

This is the view of Elmo Roper, whose scientific public opinion polls for Fortune Magazine have been remarkably accurate. While Roper has not gone so far as to estimate the specific number of voters who might be swayed by Willkie's decision, he says it is substantial—seven million.

Believing, in general, in the social objectives of the New Deal and in international collaboration, they nevertheless look with abhorrence on a fourth term. If, however, they thought that Willkie had concluded he couldn't compromise his principles to vote for the Republican nominee, they would follow him.

It would have to be, Roper points out, on a matter of principle that these voters—three to four million possibly—give intelligent study to the problems of our time. If they decided that Willkie was swayed by personal resentment, then they would not follow him.

In a small way, I've had confirmation of this in letters that have come to me as a result of columns I wrote on Willkie. These letters expressed the point of view Roper talks about. The following is from a couple in Boston:

"Don't forget many of us are still interested in Wendell Willkie and always will be. Is it too late to have him drafted? We cannot reconcile the fact that he won't be President this year."

The following is from a woman in Illinois:

"My husband is a tool and die maker at the Blank Company here. We are church goers and perhaps more serious-minded than most people. We are the much talked of 'independent voter' and we do not like the way our Government has done many things but seem to have no means of making our will effective. My **husband belongs to the union as a matter of co-operating with his fellow workers, but the position of labor leaders seldom represents his ideas."**

This is from a woman in a small town in Michigan:

"After reading your column I am impelled to say that I hope Mr. Willkie is not judging the whole Middle West by the Germans in Milwaukee. His friends here have been stunned by his sudden withdrawal and while we cannot blame him for it, we still hope that events may reverse his decision."

Willkie in this interval is wisely saying nothing. Not even to his closest friends has he given a hint of what course he will pursue. While he may talk on policy, it would be surprising if he were to take any positive step before the Republican Convention in June.

But he will do a lot of listening and looking. Whether he can accept Governor Dewey, who is to be the nominee unless some wholly unforeseeable accident occurs, is the difficult question that Willkie must answer in the next two months.

On Thursday night Dewey is making a widely heralded speech before the Bureau of Advertising of the American Newspaper Publishers Association. It will be his first public utterance since it became apparent, with Willkie's withdrawal, that there would be no serious contest for the nomination.

As such, it will be very thoroughly dissected. Whatever he says—even if he says nothing—he's bound to jar somewhat the present harmony within his party. It's a little awkward to be so conspicuously the champ at this advanced date.

Important as Dewey's utterances are bound to be from now on, Willkie and the liberals who think as he does are likely to look for more than words. They will be skeptical of words, remembering the tragedy of 1920 when liberal leaders of the Party—William Allen White, Charles Evans Hughes, Elihu Root and others of equal stature—told the public that the way to take the United States into the League of Nations was to elect Warren Harding. Harding had other ideas, or the people around him had.

Liberals within the GOP will be puzzled by the fact that one of Dewey's chief backers is Ruth Hannah McCormick Simms, who held the America First point of view. They will find it hard to understand how she can be on the same band wagon with such an internationalist, for example, as John Foster Dulles.

These independent voters are doing some sober thinking. The responsibility for the decision in November may be theirs.

Quote, Unquote

THE Japanese soldier knows how to die, he is fanatic and brave, he obeys commands explicitly and he is a tricky opponent. He is also stupid.
—Lt. Col. Henry L. Shafer, back from Bougainville.

Greater freedom for the greater number necessitates some degree of curtailment of the freedom of a few.
—Sir Stafford Cripps, British Minister of Aircraft Production.

Unless management and labor can devise the instruments for pacific settlement of disputes, the public will insist—and rightly so—on settlement by legislative compulsion.
—Eric A. Johnston, president U. S. C. of C.

Even if it is gone, I at least know that my home was destroyed not by man but by God.
—Refugee from Vesuvius eruption.

SIDE GLANCES — By Galbraith

"I'm shocked, Mrs. Jones, to think the ring your little boy gave my daughter was your own engagement ring—we thought it came from the dime store!"

Everyday Counselor

By Rev. Herbert Spaugh

WHAT one man considers as luck, another will accept as the Providence of God. It all depends on whether we feel that God is sufficiently interested in the details of the affairs of man to altar them for our good and at our request.

Life is largely unpredictable, especially in detail. Many events in life cannot be explained from natural causes. The New York World-Telegram calls such events "The Imponderables," and quotes Napoleon as saying that 90 per cent of a battle was determined by Imponderables. It was one of these which turned the tide against him, a thunderstorm which retarded the French at the battle of Waterloo and turned it into defeat for Napoleon.

The dramatic turn in Africa which led to the defeat of Rommel, the expulsion of the Germans and the invasion of the continent, is cited as another Imponderable.

"Never was there more dramatic example of how the imponderables stumped the experts and changed the course of human events than the story about the salt water in the British pipe line that stalled Rommel at El Alamein.

"The Desert Fox was almost at the gates of Alexandria. North Africa. Control of the Mediterranean, contact with the Japs through India—all that was at stake. The Germans had captured the British water supply line. They had drunk their fill. But the water was salt. It had been turned in to test a new line for leaks before the precious fresh water was supplied. The Germans, accustomed to brackish desert water, didn't sense the danger as they gulped themselves sick.

"Had the Germans broken through a day earlier, there would have been no water in the pipe. Two days later, fresh water would have been running.

"On such a thread does history hang, the thread of the Imponderables."

The Christian recalls that his Bible is filled with stories of how the Imponderables are described as the direct providences of God. He thinks of the children of Israel at the Red Sea, at Jordan. He recalls Elijah at Dotham, and Jesus quieting the waters around the storm-tossed boat on the Lake of Galilee — all as a result of earnest prayer.

Who knows how much prayer was being offered in those critical days in North Africa when the future of the Allied cause was at stake?

Oh, Patton

By Samuel Grafton

NEW YORK

THE subject of war aims is reopened by General George S. Patton's blat to the effect that the United States and Britain are going to rule the world. There is some question as to whether Russia was included by the General or not. One can well imagine the scene in the Kremlin, as Stalin and his aides hung feverishly around the news ticker, waiting to find out from London whether they were in or out. Then the great moment of relief, the happy drinking of Russian toasts, when it was finally made certain that General Patton did, by George, include Russia in his world scheme. It was touch and go, for a while.

But to return to war aims: Here we keep worrying about whether G. I. Joe knows what he's fighting for, and, lo and behold, we now find we have a general on our hands who could obviously use a few orientation lectures. But who would give those lectures? Who teaches generals?

The incident breaks up our happy concentration on the theory that it is G. I. Joe alone who needs to be told what we are fighting for; as if poor G. I. Joe were the only confused American, the only one not sharing some great secret possessed by the rest of us. At what point in the Army's standard table of organization should one say that wisdom about war aims commences? Shall we hold that every aspect of the problem comes clear at the level of captain? Or is major the lowest rank at which full wisdom about war aims becomes standard equipment, along with the leaf insignia?

The plain truth is that the whole country needs to take lessons in this field, that we are not quite ready to "orient" anybody, because we have not yet oriented the orientators.

I know of one newspaper publisher who really believes, bless his simple heart, that our secret war aim is to make Franklin D. Roosevelt the first President of the World. If a great big publisher fellow, with wire services at his disposal, and correspondents whom he can send everywhere to get him information, can be as muddled as that, and if a general can think our war aim is to rule the world, why blame poor G. I. Joe if he finds it hard to snap to attention, and instantly reel off the schedule of our desires with regard to Germany, Iceland and Korea?

Our soldiers' confusion is our own confusion, for they are flesh of our flesh, muddle of our muddle. We can help them to think clearly, but only by thinking clearly ourselves and by insisting on clear thinking in others. If, in your own little circle, cracks about our Allies are acceptable social currency, then you have, to that degree, contributed your own bit to the somewhat puzzled stare our soldiers are purported to turn on the issues in this war. If the isolationist putsch which has thrust Mr. Willkie out of the Republican race seems to you merely amusing, and not a clear alarm signal, then you have made still another contribution to fuddlement.

If you are so galled by recent reform laws (which are not so recent anymore) that your entire conversation has dwindled to a repertory of jokes about Eleanor, then, again, you have made a contribution to that lack of vision, without which, we are told, the people perish.

For we are not having trouble with war aims merely because we have lost them, somewhere, like a laundry list. It turns out that the place in which to look for war aims is in your own heart. If there is nothing there, there will be nothing on any list. I know we shall find our war aims, in the end, for we are a moral people. The danger is we won't find them until the war is over. That would be the worst case of too little and too late in the record of the whole conflict.

Reporter's Notebook

(Continued from Page One)

fight. Two of my brothers joined the British Army, one being at Dunkirk and the other in the Irish guards. Even my sister became a British Army nurse. I think the American soldier, when properly trained and led, is the best in the world so I'm the luckiest of all my parents' children."

FOUGHT IN SPAIN

The second most experienced veteran of the "Snoop Troops" is Lt. Frank W. Connor Jr., who left his Ebro River campaign ribbon behind with his wife at Silver Spring, Mo., when he came overseas.

Ninety-five per cent of the volunteers in the Washington and Lincoln Brigade in Spain were "Commies," or "Fellow Travellers." Some people look a little suspicious when they hear I was in the same country at the same time," he said. "Actually I'm a Catholic, graduated from the University of Wisconsin and voted Republican. I joined the Canadian Brigade named after a Scotsman named MacKenzie and a French Canadian named Pappineau. We never sat around discussing ideology when we should have been blowing up a bridge. We gave the Italians a bang in the pants at Guadalajara and also captured a few German staff officers and technicians."

The "Snoop Troops" have no special insignia but it might well be shamrocks on a map of the state of Georgia.

Besides Captain O'Connell there's another native of County Kerry, Pfc. John Kelleher, serving almost nightly in no man's land. Pvt. James Mahoney, also of Irish descent, from New Brunswick, N. J., quit being an amphibious duck driver to volunteer for the troops.

OTHER GEORGIANS

Besides the captain three other officers have called Georgia their home. They are Capt. Eugene Phillips, Lt. William B. Gunter and Lt. Richard Kenyon.

Kenyon, who hails from Gainesville, once led a student "revolt" at the University of Georgia against former Governor Eugene Talmadge.

Last night was one of the better nights for the "Snoop Troops." Two farmhouses in the enemy outpost lines were broken into. "Germans were killed and the only American casualties — two wounded — were carried back to safety.

O'Connell's men use binoculars at night. They found they can see three times as far. They wear rubber boots to minimize noise, and plan each step of the patrol beforehand, using models and a sand table. Their wounded never scream because it might jeopardize the others. Regardless of hazards they have never left a wounded man to fall into the enemy's hands.

Ford Strike In Canada Broken

WINDSOR, Ont. —(AP)— A nine-day strike of 14,000 workers of the Ford Motor Co. of Canada ended over the week-end with announced re-recognition of the CIO Auto Workers Union and reinstatement of four penalized union stewards.

End of the strike was announced jointly by union and management Saturday night — the latter saying that regular production would resume today.

Union representatives, reporting ratification of peace proposals set forth by the National Wartime Labor Relations Board, said the company had agreed to recognize the union as bargaining agent and would reinstate the four stewards whose discharge had precipitated the walkout.

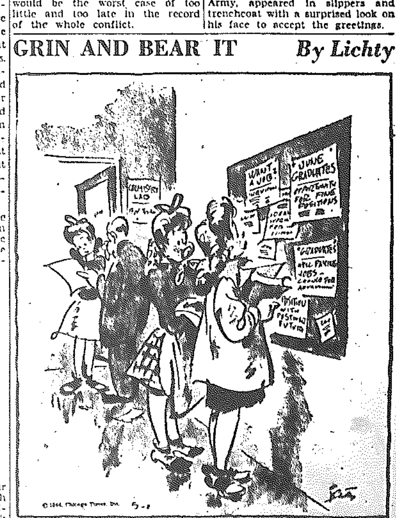
In the course of the strike the management had declared abrogation of its contract with the UAW-CIO.

Gen. Clark Is Congratulated

WITH THE FIFTH ARMY IN ITALY—(AP)—Two hundred officers and men, including eight generals, quietly surrounded Lt. Gen. Mark W. Clark's billet at dawn today and congratulated him on his 48th birthday while a band played "Happy Birthday."

Clark, commander of the Fifth Army, appeared in slippers and trenchcoat with a surprised look on his face to accept the greetings.

GRIN AND BEAR IT — By Lichty



"There used to be more opportunities for a girl—of course, there are all kinds of jobs, but there used to be a choice between marriage and a career!"