THE CHARLOTTE NEWS

And Evening Chronicle

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The Trap

With Russians Driving, Hitler Is Hemmed Up

News from Berlin that the Russian armies have begun hammering forward in Romania—though this is to be regarded with caution—stirs anew the hope that Hitler's Germany, though still a mighty military power and a savage foe, is soon to be squeezed between the most gigantic of all crushing movements. It may be, as Reporter Larry Allen maintains after long imprisonment inside Germany, that the enemy's people are still confident of victory. Or it may be, as reporters riding with the vanguard of invasion in Normady have it, that the German common soldier knows full well that the game is up.

Whatever the state of enemy morale at this date, it cannot long hold up in the face of the disaster in Italy, the fearful Allied thrust into France, and the resumption of the Red offensive in the East. Even accepting the extravagant reports of the German High Command at face value, there are not enough troops at its disposal to make possible any considerable transfer of reinforcements from one front to another. At last, Hitler is committed in three big theaters of operations, and is vulnerable to new thrusts at any moment.

There are still almost 2,000 miles of territory and undetermined millions of Nazi troops between Romanian and Normandy fronts, and something over 800 miles between the Fifth Army in Italy and the invading forces in France. There is ample room for maneuver and withdrawal, and vast battles lie ahead. But there is now no possibility of escape. The trap has snapped shut, and soon or late overwhelming defeat will overtake Germany. The United Nations, having staved off defeat at El Alamein, have now eliminated the possibility of stalemate. The enemy is at bay. Only the kill remains.

Commies!

The News Gets A Brand From Dr. Dave Clark

It will likely come as something of a surprise to all manner of people, but a pair of Communist newspapers have been spotted in North Carolina. The discoverer is David Clark, who has broken a long silence on this subject in his *Textile Bulletin* with comment on the demise of Congressman Dies and his far-famed committee. Thus:

Congressman Martin Dies recently announced that he would retire from Congress and that announcement has been the signal for great rejoicing among communists and the supporters of communism.

Papers like the Raleigh News and Observer and the Charlotte News, whose editors have, at least, a friendly feeling for many of the objectives of the communists, have editorially lambasted Congressman Dies anew and charged him with many indefinite acts, but have at the same time carefully avoided citing anything which Congressman Dies ever did which would justify the abuse heaped upon him.

Had the Dies Committee, in the years prior to the war, let communists alone and devoted its investigations to the activities of American Nazi organizations, we believe that it would have been in high favor with the two papers above mentioned and others, and with American communists and the friends of the communists.

Congressman Dies, is a fearless and patriotic American and he exposed persons and organizations who sought to overthrow our country.

Because of a certain difference in editorial point of view between *The News* and the *Bulletin* we have little hope of coming to any agreement in this matter, and pause only to wonder at the sudden resumption of the offensive against "communism." It may or may not be significant that Dr. Clark, in another editorial of the same issue, threw up a defense of Franco as the "representative" of the Spanish people, once more blasting at Dr. Frank Graham as a communist leader aiding the loyalists in the tragic Spanish war. This State is filling up with Reds again—and it's been singularly free of them since Germany invaded Russia.

Loophole

We Fight For Freedom, But Sell Our Ballots

The testimony of defeated Senatorial candidate Marvin Kitch, though it comes from a man who polled an almost insignificant number of votes, is not at all inconsequential. Mr. Kitch has spoken against the primary system as he once spoke against the closed shop which was once the old-time party convention. He has observed that he might have had a great many more votes, if he'd had the money, and that the votes of the people, by and large, are to be bought and sold.

This charge is not unique; it has been heard from many sources, and not only from defeated candidates. However, another local man, who ran a stronger race before losing, has made the same complaint to us, with reservations. His plaint runs something like this:

"Maybe I didn't have much to offer the people; I have neither the personality nor the will to stir them into a political revolution. So, in an election where there is no general uprising, as tide of opinion to bring out all the voters, it is possible for candidates with money behind them to buy elections. It is only when the people are stirred that they come out in great numbers to vote. Then, and only then, their votes cannot be bought with all the money on the world. If we could have gotten out all of Mecklenburg's potential votes—about 50,000, they could not have been had for money."

Here is pertinent comment from disillusioned men on the abortive processes of democracy. They are heard after a North Carolina election which is generally assumed to be the most expensive ever staged. There is the impression that the major race saw more money passed in exchange for votes than ever before in our history.

And these plaints come at a time when we are offering our greatest sacrifice in defense of our free system of democratic government. They are an acknowledgment that, though we battle fiercely for principles with our blood abroad, we stoop still to knavery at home, and pass away our blessings to highest bidders.

Deserts

Rebellious Strikers Should Be Punished

The 15,000 strikers of the Wright Aeronautical Corp. plant in Ohio, defiant of the War Labor Board, the Army and their CIO leaders, were very properly issued an ultimatum by management. The nation as a whole will approve the edict: return to work, or lose your jobs. This sentiment, we dare say, is held by labor representatives—who have asserted that no group should be allowed to hold their own grievances above the needs of the nation's fighting forces at this hour.

The principle to be applied here should be the same as applied in the Montgomery Ward case. Regardless of all else, refusal to submit to arbitration, or to accept a WLB decree should bring forth Governmental action. There will be few tears shed in this country, even by the staunchest friends of labor, if the persisting strikers are deprived of their jobs, though this in ordinary times would represent an invasion of their rights.

The Merry-Go-Round

By Drew Pearson

WASHINGTON

JUST before Vice-President Wallace left for China, he had a talk with the President which may have important bearing on his political future. Wallace laid it right in the lap of the President as to whether he, Wallace, should be on the Democratic ticket.

He told FDR that he realized the question of who would run for Vice-President on a Roosevelt ticket was the hottest political issue in the nation today, and added that he personally was relatively unimportant.

"The main thing," he said in brief, "is that you be reelected. "Therefore, before I leave the country, I want you to know that I am perfectly prepared to step aside. Furthermore, I want you to feel that you are perfectly free to make your decision without further consulting me."

This struck a responsive chord with the President. But he did not commit himself. To do so might have indicated definitely that he planned to run and, so far as anyone knows, he has not done that even to members of his own family.

The President has always appreciated Wallace's loyalty, especially after the beating Wallace took at the hands of Jesse Jones during the row over the Board of Economic Warfare. Jones has been reported determined to keep Wallace off the Democratic ticket and, judging by the part played by Jesse's nephew in the anti-Roosevelt revolt in Texas, he has a lot of bargaining power. However, the President can be awfully stubborn and he may get the "old Dutch up" regarding having Wallace on the ticket.

Navy Undersecretary

New Secretary of the Navy Jimmy Forrestal hasn't endeared himself either to the White House or the admirals in his maneuvering to pick an Undersecretary of the Navy.

Jimmy's first personal choice for Undersecretary was Struve Hensel, the Wall St. lawyer now heading the Navy's procurement legal division. However, this would have meant too many Wall Streeters running the Navy. Forrestal himself was head of Dillon, Read; Assistant Secretary Gates was head of New York Trust; Assistant Secretary Bard is a Chicago investment banker.)

So Forrestal then turned to Charles Thomas of California, who, however,—turned out to be a banker gilded over. He had been with the banking house of Dillon, Read, but was sent out to California to manage a clothing firm which went bad on its loans.

Meanwhile, the President had suggested Adlai Stevenson of Chicago, grandson of Vice-President Stevenson of the second Cleveland Administration, and one of the best young men in the Navy Department. But Forrestal turned thumbs down, giving Stevenson the brush-off so vigorously that the latter is now quitting his job as special assistant to the Secretary of the Navy.

The President also favored Donald Russell of South Carolina, chief assistant to Justice Jimmy Byrnes, but Forrestal didn't.

Forrestal then brought up the name of John Kenny, a San Francisco lawyer, and is also thinking of making Ralph Bard Undersecretary, with Struve Hensel taking his place as Assistant Secretary. However, the President has never quite forgiven Bard for his speech in the Fall of 1942 in which he said, "We are losing the war." Also, both Bard and Assistant Secretary Gates have blamed for making a flop of the Brewster airplane plant shutdown.

So Jimmy Forrestal is having an awfully hard time pleasing everyone.

Montgomery Ward

During recent Congressional hearings on Montgomery Ward, WLB Chairman Will Davis was on the witness stand being cross-examined by Chicago's hard-working Republican Representative Charles Dewey, partly with questions slipped to Dewey by Montgomery Ward's John Barr.

Dewey was asking about the operations of the War Labor Board in connection with Montgomery Ward and, as the cross-examination got hot, Davis shot back:

"If you think these are so easy, come and sit in my seat."

"I'm having a hard enough time being re-elected to take time out to do that," replied Congressman Dewey good-naturedly.

CIO leaders who sat in on the hearing came up to Dewey later and jokingly reminded him that, if he wanted to be re-elected, he shouldn't forget the 500 members of the Montgomery Ward union living in his district. So Dewey invited CIO Leader Leonard Levy over to his home that evening, where they talked for two hours.

During their conversation, Dewey seemed impressed with the union's point of view regarding "maintenance of membership."

"Sewell Avery has been claiming in his advertisements that you demand a closed shop," the Congressman remarked. "But he's absolutely wrong. Under maintenance of membership, any worker has fifteen days in which to withdraw from the union, but once he decides to stay in, he has to stay until the contract expires. That isn't a closed shop."

Avery Says No

About this time, Mrs. Dewey came in to say that Sewell Avery was on the phone.

"Ask him to come over," suggested CIO's Levy, "and give his point of view. And after hearing him, my union will be glad to leave this question of maintenance of membership entirely up to you, Congressman. We'll let you act as arbitrator and settle the whole dispute."

"Yes, Charley, that's an excellent idea," seconded Mrs. Dewey. "Why don't you settle it? It would be a fine thing for the country."

But when the proposition was put to Avery, he refused. Congressman Dewey argued at some length, but got nowhere. Later he remarked:

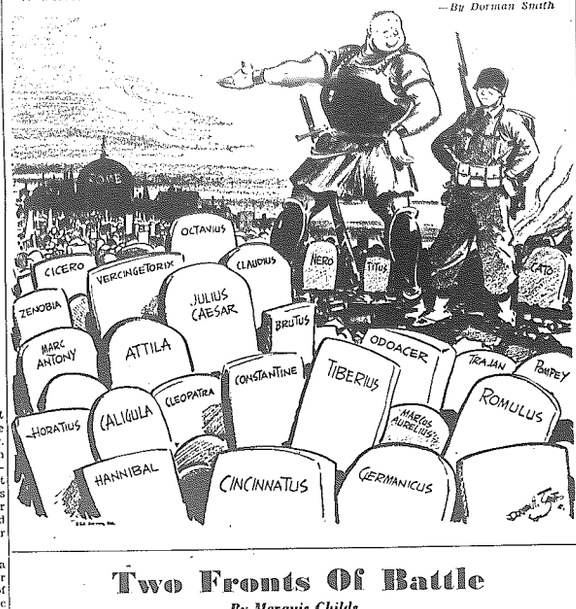
"Sewell Avery is just one of these feudal members of society and there's not much you can do about him."

However, in subsequent Montgomery Ward hearings regarding the Post Office, Congressman Dewey has continued to heckle the Government.

NOTE—If Montgomery Ward workers decide to go after Dewey next November—as they undoubtedly will—they probably will have an easy time. In 1940, Dewey was elected by a majority of 6,990. In 1942, this margin slipped down to 2,124. Meanwhile, there are not only 500 Montgomery Ward families in his district, but also 5,000 CIO families.

"Would You Care To Hear Me Reminisce, Son?"

—By Dorman Smith



Two Fronts Of Battle

By Marquis Childs

WASHINGTON

THE liberation of Rome by Allied troops is bound to speed up the march toward victory. While its strategic value may be doubtful, especially in view of the task of feeding a large civilian population, its prestige value is very high.

Then, too, the taking of the city redeems an earlier failure which has been the subject of much discussion among military men. At the time the Anzio beachhead was established, German resistance was so slight that our forces might have gone on to the capital itself.

The orders under which the American commander was operating specified, however, that the invasion should halt at a certain point. Those orders were not exceeded, as they might have been if individual commanders had been prepared to take risks. Meanwhile, the Germans brought up reinforcements and the stalemate at Anzio followed. Subsequently, as Secretary of War Stimson revealed at a recent press conference, the command was changed.

What happened at Anzio and the aftermath have been thoroughly studied by military leaders. They feel it was a lesson learned, particularly in relation to the big push from England. They believe that, in similar circumstances today, an Allied commander would not hesitate to exceed his authority and take advantage of the kind of opening that existed for a time at Anzio. The important point is that the military try to learn from experience.

I wish as much could be said for leadership on the home front. Procrastination, indifference and political maneuvering seem to be the order here in Washington. In at least two fields, this can have disastrous effects for the war and the peace.

Although the first proposal for authorization of funds for the United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration went up to Congress in January, it was not until last Saturday that the House got around to making the funds available to the organization that must carry out relief in liberated areas. And then the amount was reduced by nearly half. The House approved $450,000,000 after cutting out an additional $350,000,000 which would have been transferred from Lend-Lease funds.

While Republicans voted almost solidly against the $350,000,000 transfer, minority leader Joe Martin indicated there would be no objection if the Senate restored this amount. So now the Senate has a chance to make up for the error.

The essential thing is speed. Most of the other big powers have already made their share of the UNRRA fund available. The United States lags behind. It isn't just a question of our self-respect in meeting an obligation we agreed to. Governor Lehman, the director of UNRRA, has been seriously handicapped in preparing for the task of feeding and clothing Europe's destitute.

He has been unable to take advantage of surpluses now glutting the food market. Plans and preparations have had to be conditional on when money would be in hand. This could well mean added suffering and starvation for millions of innocent victims of the war. It could mean social and political chaos in Europe.

An almost equally serious situation comes out of the delay in acting on legislation providing for the change-over of industry from war to peace. Short of a magic wand to be waved over the land, the job must be laid out and defined—or we'll get confusion worse confounded here at home.

No one, least of all its authors, argues that the Baruch-Hancock plan is a blueprint for a perfect new society. The authors of that reconversion plan had their sights fixed on a fundamental objective — getting war contracts and war machinery out of the way so that peacetime production could begin.

The Senate has already adopted a measure which would carry out the basic objectives of the Baruch-Hancock plan. Sponsors of a similar proposal in the House hope for action this week or, at the latest, by the first of next week. Perfectionists arguing for a more inclusive reconversion plan might well, as Baruch has said, quibble us into a panic if peace should break out suddenly.

Conceivably, events could happen fast from now on out. Let's be ready. Let's not end the war with another kind of Pearl Harbor.

Quote, Unquote

Every stout boy born in 1943 can become a brave soldier in 1963.

—German High Command Instruction Manual.

I do not accept the thesis that the third World War is already in the making. But I do most emphatically wish to state that it will be in the making unless the armed force of the United States is continued in being when this war is over.

—Navy Secretary James V. Forrestal.

SIDE GLANCES

By Galbraith

"Those pigeons have got the racket!"

Everyday Counselor

By Herbert Spaugh, D. D.

THOSE endowed with reasonably good memory will recall statements made about a decade ago by many, including those in high governmental positions, that repealing the prohibition amendment would improve conditions arising from indulgence in beverage alcohol. They argued that the best way to get rid of a thing is to make it easy to get; and nobody will want it. Furthermore, we were promised that under no circumstances would the old saloon be allowed to return.

Those who made such statements should now face the facts. During the prohibition era institutions for the treatment of alcoholics languished. Many of them practically closed. Just recently a well-known institution for the treatment of alcoholism released a letter to the press in the form of an advertisement. It read in part:

"To The Public: Rapidly mounting sales of beverages of high alcoholic content forces a greater consideration of the problems arising from whisky addiction and what it means to the country, as well as the disastrous havoc it is playing with the lives of individuals and their families. . . .

"In times of such emergency, when the country's man power is sorely needed in affairs that affect all of us, it is evident that alcoholism is making itself felt to an even more alarming extent. . . ."

Here from an old institution which has devoted years to the treatment of alcoholism we have the bald statement that the sale of "beverages of high alcoholic content" have greatly increased; that the effect on the man power of the country should alarm us.

There are those even now who say that the dividing stocks of whisky will take care of this situation. Ask your civilian police department, the Army military police, the Navy shore patrol. If whisky stocks are dwindling, advertising appropriations for them have apparently not.

Advertising mediums which formerly declined advertisements for alcoholic beverages now accept them boldly. It smites the eye; it smites the ear. It is quite evident that the alcoholic beverage interests are out to cultivate a taste for their products in young America, especially in our armed services. The alcoholism of today won't be a circumstance to what we will have ten years from now unless vigorous steps are taken.

To make matters worse the old corner saloon is back in different clothes. It is now a tap room. Instead of the fat bar tender behind the brass rail there are young girls serving around the tables.

Americans, read your history. No nation ever drank itself to victory or to greatness. These are critical days when we fight a fierce enemy without, while an iniquitous one gnaws within at the very vitals of our national life.

In Richmond

By Samuel Grafton

RICHMOND, VA.

RICHMOND'S two newspapers, the News Leader and the Times Dispatch, are under the same ownership, have no competition and are both liberal. According to Morris Ernst, who believes that competition is the spice of liberalism, this can't possibly be true. But it is true. I don't attempt to explain it; I merely pass the information on.

The North and the West don't know enough about Southern liberalism, anyway. I just had some at lunch, with hot bread and it was very good. Those who believe American liberalism is confined to the cafeterias of 14th St. ought to try the bread you can get at the dining room of the John Marshall, here in town.

I had come down here (by bus from Washington) to get an answer to the $300,000 question.

This is what it cost the Carnegie Foundation to prepare and put out a recent book on race relations by Gunnar Myrdal, the Swedish sociologist. The Foundation brought Mr. Myrdal in to give us an outside or foreign view of the leading American race problem and years of hard work by many men went into the making of two volumes called "An American Dilemma". This book, published by Harpers with its foreshadowing of greater crisis to come in the race problem, will never outsell "A Tree Grows Strange Fruit in Brooklyn" or "Good Night, Lest Weekend", but it seemed to me that Americans ought to know there is such a book; that they ought to have climaxes into its contents, even so imperfect and unscholarly a climpse as can be provided by a daily columnist; and that they ought to know what men in a position to think about the points raised by the book, think about them. It was to get around and ask the $300,000 question that I left the city I love.

This will give you a sample of Gunnar Myrdal's thinking: "What has actually happened within the last few years is not only that the Negro problem has become national in scope after having been mainly a Southern worry. It has also acquired tremendous international implications, and this is another and decisive reason why the North is prevented from compromising with the white South regarding the Negro."

If you think that's a joke, I picked up in Washington just before coming here, the story of how the Japanese have just circulated far and wide through Asia a really stupid, really inflammatory race relations editorial from a small Louisiana daily.

Mr. Virginius Dabney, editor of the Times Dispatch, talked at lunch about the Myrdal material. He said: "The white South must realize that relations between the races in this and all regions of the United States are going to change. We do not live in a static society. While Southerners who simply dig their heels in the ground and refuse to recognize this are laying up trouble for themselves and the country."

I got from him a feeling which has come to me in the South before, that a Southern liberal has to be consequential, in a way that a Northern liberal need not. A Southern liberal bears a direct responsibility towards this explosive problem, he has to live with the consequences of any action he urges, in a way that is only remotely true in the North. He cannot go flap-flap on this issue as a Northerner may, nor follow any bright hunch which comes to mind. It is the difference between being on a storm-tossed ship and giving advice to it by radio.

That is why Mr. Dabney preaches the inevitability of change, why he tries to give his community a feeling of predicament.

He tries to convince his readers that they really are on a storm-tossed ship, but many of them, though slightly green in the gills, hang desperately to the heaving rail and insist that the weather is calm and even delightful.

"Must be a new example of the power of the press . . . they insist on surrendering to me!"

People's Platform

Public Execution

Editors, The News:

I noticed a news item in your good paper which mentions that at last we have a Judge who, in his judgment, as Harvey Morris says that public hanging is what the people crave, that the gas chamber is a nebulous affair; no one sees it, it is something off in the distance.

Certainly let us have public hangings, like in the England of the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries, let us even leave them hanging for 24 hours as a deterrent to others, or, we go one further and hang the head on a spike at our city's gate as a warning to evil doers.

Is not the word of a state's doctor good enough for Mr. Morris? Is not the word of duly designated witness good enough? If they suffice with respect to the official execution of the condemned, then must it not be unkindly considered that perhaps the judge would be himself revel in such a sight? And if Mr. Morris is ready to state that punishment is a deterrent to crime, then he has gone further than the philosophers and the criminologists and also those who have studied the morals of this world during the past two thousand years.

I can recommend that Mr. Morris spend the rest of the Summer reading Lecky's "History of the Morals of the World" and by the time the next Legislature opens, he'll be all set. He'll find there some proof; for instance, when they held public hangings in old England for pickpockets, all the pickpockets on the Island flocked to the scene, as it offered a good crowd in which they could ply their trade.

—H. L. BRADERMAN.

Charlotte.

P. S.: I voted for Mr. Morris!!!

Thank You

EDITORS, The News:

I desire to send you my personal appreciation for the fine editorials presented to the readers during the recent campaign. Indeed, they contributed much to the cause of good government in North Carolina.

Gastonia, N. C. C. W. Gunter.

Skullduggery Is Suspected

Editors, The News:

Students here are convinced that there is a movement to discredit Dr. Frank P. Graham in Washington by forcing him to make a hasty decision between the Presidency of the Consolidated University of North Carolina and the War Labor Board. They suspect an organized attempt to force out the liberals in the University administration and some of the men have already quietly left.

W. Horace Carter, Editor
Sara Yokley, Managing Editor
The Daily Tar Heel
Chapel Hill, N. C.

The Bishop Revs Us Up

Editors, The News:

Whom is me! O tempora, O mores! I am flabbergasted, amazed, dumbfounded, nonplussed and purt' nigh nonsuited by my favorite afternoon newspaper. It jes' seems to me that all my labors have been in vain. In season and out of season I have exhorted and prayed and persuaded the brethren and sistren on The News staff to be an ensample to all members of my extensive diocese, but now I feel like perhaps my bishopric should be taken by another.

My soul was saddened when I picked up my copy of The News and read in an editorial the drattted expression, "Rev. Spaugh," it is inexcusable in a cotton patch or cornfield fellow like me to use such an expression, but to find it used by the literarian who adorns the inner sactum, and in an editorial at that, is more than I can bear.

The Rev. Mr. Spaugh is too gentle a soul to take offense at such an egregious blunder in grammatical usage, but you haint got no business a-callin' him that, if he it is proper to say Rev. Spaugh, then call Word Wood, the banker, Financial Wood, Call Paul Whitlock Legal Whitlock, Dr. John Quincy Myers Medical Myers, and Author Tim Pridgen Literary Pridgen.

Brethren, I call upon you to retract, recant and repent in flax cloth and ashes.

Tom. P. Jimison

Rockingham, N. C.