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Big Hand
The British, who have suffered so much more than Americans, had no trouble understanding President Roosevelt's message to Congress. They recognized immediately their admiration for calling it wise, courageous, re-assuring, forthright. If there was an understatement of British criticism—that it had come too late, or that it was too mild, or that it should not have been necessary—it was not to be heard.

To a Britain which has suffered four years of almost continual attack, whose citizens have paid an appalling price in life, property and living standards, and whose men and women have been regaled under a national service law from the beginning, the President's words might have seemed grimly ironic. Though American manpower carries the brunt of the fighting in the West, and American weapons and food have armed the Allies toward victory, Britons must have been puzzling over her reluctance to press all our adult citizens into service.

The *London Times*, commenting, thought that the speech should help us appreciate "what has become a fatal handicap to American security and to world order." "We don't know what that observation meant, lifted from its text as it was, but it may have referred to our recent penchant for barking and bickering among ourselves, at Britain and Russia. It may have borne upon American views on the peace. Or it may have meant simply that it was time Americans gave up their foolhardy game of following Roosevelt's lead in gazing beyond the war as if it were already won. Britain may have taken the President's message to mean that America would now keep its eye on the "essential stake," and realize that the war is yet to be won.

Whatever shaped British thinking, the message evidently was received on that side of the Atlantic with greater enthusiasm than at home. Perhaps it was simply that the British, and Americans close to the fighting fronts, could appreciate that change because they know more of the war, and see in the President's solemn restraint a new challenge to the arsenal of democracy.

Wrong Answer
A couple of years ago the Texas Legislature passed a law requiring paid organizers for labor unions to register with the State Government before getting out to solicit members. The law was deliberately violated by one of the top men in CIO in order to bring about a test of its constitutionality.

A Texas court handed him a sentence of three days in prison, \$100 fine. On appeal, the Supreme Court of Texas upheld the law. Yesterday the Supreme Court of the United States ruled, by one of its stock 5-4 decisions, that the law was unconstitutional.

Does this mean that five members of the Supreme Court like Labor, and that the other four don't? We don't think so. Personal attitudes may have had something to do with shaping the decision, but at least the majority and minority differed. It held that in the Texas case only regulation of union practices, not freedom of speech, was involved, and that the Court was not supposed to question the wisdom of such regulations. That was Texas' affair.

We ourselves are devoted to free speech and consider it the more fortunate for the country that the Supreme Court, if it must be divided, come out with a majority in favor of upholding this principle. But beyond that we hold that the Texas law never should have been passed.

Union practices need regulation, yes; we have frequently pointed out as much. But there is no sense in simply obstructing legitimate enterprises, just because they happen to be Labor enterprises.

In pacifying Greece, Britain leans to the drastic method of the liegeward: If the drowning swimmer thrashes around, knock him cold before hauling him to shore.

The dark meat of turkey is a good source of iron." In fact, after four days or so in the ice box, it is iron.

Wisdom And Wit
WILLIAM JOY GAYNOR, Mayor of New York, 1909-1913, answers letters of consolation from constituents:

Dear Mr. Gordon: I regret to say that I have so many official duties pressing upon me that I cannot just now devote any time to the tomcats, as you request. There are a few in my neighborhood, but I go to sleep and let them howl. But some say that it is the plum-cats that howl, and not the tomcats. How is that?
We must not let Tommy for the sins of the fathers of this species is more deadly than...

Not Uninviting
Governor Cherry knew what he was talking about when, in connection with his statement regarding the reduction, he cited as an attraction to industry the lower local tax rates which lessening debts will make possible in the next few years. Take Mecklenburg County, for example. Mecklenburg still has outstanding \$860,000 in road bonds, issued away back in 1922. Payment of these and other bonds will be piling up on the County during the next five or six years, when annual maturities amount to \$229,000. It will have to be met, and the County Commissioners have wisely begun laying aside a reserve in preparation. In 1951-52, maturities drop sharply to \$14,000.

Road bonds are only a partial explanation. In the 1920s local governments in North Carolina went in heavily for handsome public buildings and (not-so-handsome) public schools. Also, bonds were floated at what seem, now, to have been excessive interest rates, as high as 5 and 6%. Nevertheless, most North Carolina local governments have managed to cope with such debts by levying tax rates which, in comparison with those of neighboring states, are decidedly inviting to industrial enterprises. Mecklenburg County's 70c rate is certainly nothing to shy at.

More inviting still is the probability of longer tax rates as bonds are paid off. Even if local governments should commence issuing bonds profusely again (which they can't do except by vote of the people), the saving in sight should be sufficient to service the additional bonds without any increase in tax rates.

In fine, North Carolina, state and local, are in good shape and getting better. Stability is theirs to offer.

He Came By Way Of Luzon!
The Republican National Convention Chairman Herbert Brownell spent a restless two days in Washington last week trying to bind up the GOP's wounds. He had come to the Capitol hoping to get some unity on a party program only to find that Congressional leaders were in revolt against the regular party organization.

"This coalition business," said Republican legislators, "where we join up with the Southern Democrats on certain legislation may be all right, but it isn't what the voters have a right to expect from us. I think we need a legislative program of our own that we can stand or fall on. We should introduce our own bills and fight hard for them. If we lose, we can accuse the Democrats of obstructionism instead of having them make the accusation against us."

Under the circumstances, I have determined to assume the responsibility for asking General Wilson to increase the ration to 200 grams throughout all of Italy that our forces occupy."

"Campaign Oratory"
Despite this campaign oration by the President of the United States, Gen. Sir Henry Maitland Wilson, referred to above, did nothing. Last week, Secretary Stimson, emboldened by Stimson's reasons, why increased feeding had not been given Italy, but he did

The Republican Wobble
By Samuel Grafton
NEW YORK
CONTINUING my exhortation to the Republicans, I should like to point out that the GOP cannot play both sides against the middle in the new Congress without being exposed. It cannot, for example, recover its historic role as the spokesman for the Negroes and other racial minorities in the Senate. The words are taken from Representative Rankin of Mississippi, as it did on Wednesday last, to set up a new Dies Committee. Mr. Rankin is not often regarded as friend of American minority groups. For the Republicans to work with him, while declaring themselves the champions of the oppressed, is a confusing piece of business.

The Whole Story Isn't Told
By Marquis Childs
WASHINGTON
THE full consequences of the German offensive are being withheld from the American public by something like a news blackout. This may be necessary to keep the information from the enemy. Only the top military commanders are competent to judge that.

War Department fosters the illusion that nothing has been altered by the German offensive. That may be true. But why carry rumors have begun to gain currency. Members of Congress have heard that large number of men are being transferred from the AAF and into the infantry. According to War Department spokesmen, these men are being transferred under German offensive before the German offensive began, and the program is moving ahead as planned. Two days before the start of the Nazi offensive, the War Department announced that 55,000 men would be transferred from the AAF and 25,000 from Special Services units. The air forces had sustained much higher losses than had been calculated, particularly among ground crews, and in the face of the acute need for young men fit for combat the transfer program was ordered.

not give the whole story. Actually, as pointed out by the President, there has been accumulating a stock pile of men for the ground forces. Discussion between British and U. S. officials have been continuing. During one conference of U. S. Army men, a lieutenant colonel on the staff of Maj. Gen. Henry Hildring criticized Roosevelt's food order of Oct. 31.

GOP Plotting
Republican National Convention Chairman Herbert Brownell spent a restless two days in Washington last week trying to bind up the GOP's wounds. He had come to the Capitol hoping to get some unity on a party program only to find that Congressional leaders were in revolt against the regular party organization.

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People's Platform
The News
Please allow me space to comment on Charlotte's unwillingness to have the Rapid Treatment Center moved to Monroe, and the testimony of Dr. Cameron.

Just Who Was Banned?
Editors, The News:
Re your editorial of Jan. 3, 1945, "These benign sovereigns, William & Mary," does your short memory allow you to forget so easily that William of the House of Orange was the oppressor of the Irish (the red shirt and not that departed gang of Scottish convicts sent to Northern Ireland to police the good blood)?

A Note From The General
On behalf of this Headquarters, I wish to thank you for your contribution and assistance to the Third Air Force Team during the past season.
The fine reception accorded the Grenlins by Charlotte was due in public pleasure to the splendid efforts of the military, police, and sports staff of The News.
This Headquarters fully appreciates your efforts on behalf of the Grenlins.
Sincerely yours,
WESTBIDE E. MALONEY
Major General.



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Nazis Aimed High
IN BELGIUM, Jan. 7.—(Delayed)—German forces have made only two major breaks through American lines in this war—Rommel's smash from Falaise in Tunisia, Feb. 14, 1942, and the breakthrough into the West during the Battle of the Bulge, Dec. 16, 1944.

It is interesting to note that the similarities between these two offensives are not limited to the tactical thoroughness in each. In both cases, the German tanks and American armor were close together and the opposing American armor was divided and destroyed.

In a each case, only desperate last ditch fighting and the timely arrival of reserves after long forced marches saved American troops from being encircled and cut to pieces. Both times brilliant German commanders slashed through the weakest point in the long Yankee line.

In February, 1942, Rommel, who had German troops left in Africa, would be bottled up between the British First Army and American Second Corps to the west and Montgomery's pursuing Eighth Army which was pushing up from the south toward the Mediterranean.

Another German column swung around the British armor from the south had taken Casablanca and Thelepte. Alarmed by his previous successes, Rommel's rapid drive toward the March Line. Rommel reluctantly had to pull back his battered panzers without

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