THE CHARLOTTE NEWS

W. C. DOWD JR., Publisher — J. E. DOWD, Editor — HARRY S. ASHMORE, Associate Editor

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Invitation To Murder

To lynch, according to Webster's International Dictionary, is "to inflict punishment, especially death, without the forms of law . . ."

The fatal shooting of Jesse James Payne, Negro, who was taken by a mob from an unguarded jail while awaiting trial on charges of rape, was not a lynching, said Governor Millard Caldwell of Florida.

"My personal opinion is that the crime did not come within any recognized definition of lynching," the Governor said, and we grant him his right to withhold his recognition of the usual authorities. But the rest of his statement is the most shocking effort to justify mob murder we have heard from a responsible public official in many years.

"The ordeal of bringing a young and innocent victim of rape into open court and subjecting her to detailed cross-examination by defense counsel could easily be as great an injury as the original crime. This fact probably accounts for a number of killings or lynchings, which might otherwise be avoided. Society has not found a solution to this problem."

Clearly, it is the Governor's opinion that the proper disposition of these unpleasant cases is the quick, quiet hanging, or shooting, of the accused, without benefit of trial. He not only condones this, but he has, in effect, issued an open invitation to the citizens of Florida to adopt the method, for he has refused to take any action against Sheriff Lonnie Davis, who cheerfully admitted he left the jail unguarded on the night Jesse James Payne was, according to Webster, lynched.

The Sheriff's culpability is, the Governor holds, the responsibility of the citizens who elected him. "It is my intention to awaken a sense of civic responsibility in our citizens. To that end, I have refused to do their work for them on the theory that when they have found they must act or take the consequences, they will act."

There could be no greater irony than that compounded by Governor Caldwell's own words. Here is the spectacle of the Chief Executive of the State of Florida promoting increased civic responsibility by announcing his conviction that it is proper, indeed desirable, for the citizenry to violate the law he has sworn to uphold.

We don't know what effect this incredible statement will have in Florida; perhaps there will be a sufficient body of outraged public opinion to counteract it. But we do know the effect it will have elsewhere in the South—it is a belly-blow to the thousands of Southerners who have labored over the years to erase the stigma of lynch law from their region, and who had every reason to believe they had, even if they had not completely eradicated the practice, at least made it unrespectable.

It Works Both Ways

The reaction in America to the agreements reached at the Moscow conference has been, we think, more significant than the fact that the United States, Russia and Great Britain have finally agreed upon a method of controlling atomic energy, the fermenting Balkans and the Japanese home islands.

Few editorial sighs of relief greeted the announcement that at least the appearance of Big Three unity had been obtained in these matters; instead the commentators have been busy adding up the score and figuring out who won. And this is a certain indication that the tiny area of agreement is still dwarfed by the tremendous area of conflict, acknowledgment that we did not expect the conference to produce mutual advantages, only a victory for one side and defeat for the other.

The loudest cries of protest have been directed at the establishment of joint control over the Japanese occupation, possibly because this is about the only point we yielded. The concessions we obtained in the Balkans, and in the matter of atomic control were dearly bought, in the view of our distinguished contemporary, who remarked in advance that Secretary Byrnes' success would depend upon his ability to say "no".

This argument—and it's a popular one—rests upon the thesis that the war in the Pacific was a private battle between the United States and Japan, totally unrelated to the conflict in Europe. Since we won the victory almost single-handedly (the contribution of British bases, troops and naval units was a help, but not essential, and the last-minute entry of the Russians, while it helped speed the victory, was not a determinant) it follows, in this view, that we alone are entitled to dictate the terms of occupation.

The thesis, of course, does not jibe with the policy established during the war. General Marshall, in his final report as Chief of Staff, outlined the strategy that brought us to final victory; the Pacific war was, he said, a holding operation, designed to confine Japanese aggression until we obtained our main objective in Europe. It was this strategy that dictated our diplomacy, and, because it was absolutely essential to its success, we not only condoned the non-aggression pact between Russia and Japan, but we insisted that the Russians should not enter the Pacific fighting until the war in Europe had ended. It was a clear agreement, and the Russians lived up to their end of it, shifting their forces immediately after the signing of the German armistice, and declaring war on Japan, as they had agreed to do, *on the day the United States asked them to come in.*

Moreover, if we chose to base the extent of Russian participation in the Japanese occupation on Russia's direct contribution to the Pacific victory, we would have no valid argument against the Russian insistence that their policy in the Balkans is none of our business. Based on days of fighting, cost in lives and in money, and ground gained, the Russians would have three votes for every one cast jointly by the United States and Great Britain in determining the occupation policies in Europe. The Russians could, in all logic, insist that we control only that portion of the continent we had physically occupied, which would confine us to France, the Low Countries, Italy, one-third of Germany and a corner of Austria.

The effort to divide World War II into two unrelated campaigns is really an extension of the old isolationist argument. And it is as dangerous as it is illogical, for it leads directly to the establishment of two spheres of influence and draws up battle lines between Russia and the western democracies. Certainly it cannot be fitted into the concept of the United Nations, now being established under our sponsorship.

Such violent objection to meeting Russian demands on any point is, of course, a measure of our suspicion of Russian motives, just as Russian stubborness reflects Soviet distrust of Britain and America. The success of the Moscow conference cannot be determined by the temporary advantage gained by any one of the three nations, but must be measured by the degree to which these mutual suspicions are battered down. And, on that basis, we can give the conference no better than a middling score.

From The Richmond Times-Dispatch:

Moonlight On Brown Hills

In these short days of December the sun circles low across the sky, and when it tips over the horizon the curtains are drawn swiftly and shut off the light. In late afternoon golden shafts slant from kitchen windows across the farmyard and lanterns throw long shadows as farmers go about the evening chores.

For a brief period between day and night tall trees stand silhouetted on the hill tops, intricate etchings against the sunset sky. Then the stars begin breaking through the blue-black veil and the big, cold-yellow December moon sails slowly among them. It's a good time of year to take a walk in the evening along a country road. Bare trees and bushes stand quietly over the walls and zigzagging rail fences. Brown, sodden leaves are heaped against them and piled in the fence corners. The fields and meadows are bare-brown and the grasses and weeds are bent with the pressures of black frosts. As one walks along there are little noises in the woods; perhaps an animal is on its nocturnal rounds. If there's a breeze, there are soft creakings as branches rub together, and beneath the evergreens one can hear the quiet-voiced murmurings of the branches in the tree tops.

But it is from the hill tops that the full beauty of the countryside is revealed. Up and down the valley roads and from the roads that twist along the hillsides, lights shine from farm homes. In the distance is a cluster of lights along the town streets. It is lonely, quiet and peaceful, and over all the brown hills that one senses rather than sees looming up to the horizon is the beautiful soft dimness of moonlight.

There appears to be no consensus on Pat Hurley and his alarms, some insisting the Gen. is merely a loud sound, while others feel he has caught the State Department with its spats down.

Miss Peggy Joyce appears in the later picture pages without the usual array of precious stones. There was a time when the beauteous peg was repaved every few years.

Wars in the future, says Hap Arnold, will center around the North Pole. The next great conflict is to be horrifying beyond our darkest imaginings and, it seems, free from malaria.

Drew Pearson

A Report On Snow Shoveling In Independence

WASHINGTON

THE problem of snow removal from the sidewalks around the "Summer White House" created something of a problem just before President Truman paid his Christmas visit to Independence, Mo.

At first nothing was done about the snow around the Truman mansion. Secret Service agents guarding the house said it was their job to guard, not to shovel. Finally James T. Hopkins, aged 59, got out his horse Dick, aged 5, and with a home-made snow-plow cleared the snow from the N. Delaware St. side of the Truman home. But he didn't have time to clear the West Van Horn Road side because he had to clear the walks used by children.

One day before Mrs. Truman arrived, however, George Dodsworth, president of the Independence Chamber of Commerce, called out the Chamber's six new directors. He told them that the snow around the "Summer White House" would have to be cleared and their initiation into the Chamber would be to do the job.

Armed with shovels, the six new directors went to work. Dodsworth and Harold V. Starr, manager of the Chamber, helped them. The group included: George C. Carson, funeral director; Don M. Slusher, dry goods merchant; Kenneth B. Smith, manager of a sporting goods store; Elvin K. Luff, vice-president of the Independence Stove & Furnace Co.; Edward C. Wright Jr., insurance agent; and Elmer H. Ahmann, lawyer.

They did a good job. The walks around the Truman home were thoroughly shoveled.

They did not, however, tackle the drive in the rear of the house. So next morning, two employees from the Highway Department arrived to clear the driveway. They had shoveled for about twenty minutes when the First Lady appeared on the back porch.

"You are shoveling gravel on the grass," admonished Mrs. Truman, always a meticulous housekeeper.

There were some explanations that they had been sent by the Highway Department to clear the snow.

"I don't care who sent you," replied Mrs. Truman. "I want you to quit."

Which is exactly what they did. Mrs. Truman left instructions with a Secret Service agent not to let anyone scoop snow from the drive. And no one has.

ARMY FAVORITISM

Several members of the Senate Military Affairs Committee who, unlike Senator Chan Gurney of South Dakota, don't get out the prayer rug every morning and salaam in the direction of the Pentagon Building, have done some careful studying of peacetime conscription.

Here are some of the conclusions they have reached:

1. If the Army's policy men want a big peacetime standing Army, their first move should be to cut out the favoritism and unfairness which has made millions of GI's and reserve officers swear that under no circumstances would they remain in the Army.

2. It has now been eight months since V-E Day and five months since V-J Day, but as far as Senators can see, nothing has been done by the Army's own top generals to clean out favoritism.

3. Instead of making the Army more attractive to enlisted men and temporary officers, the generals, even before the end of the European War, began a careful propaganda campaign for peacetime conscription.

Conclusion of several key members of the Senate Military Affairs Committee, including Johnson of Colorado, O'Mahoney of Wyoming, Kilgore and Revercomb of West Virginia, is that the brass hats have put the cart before the horse. They should clean up inside the Army first. Then they should come to Congress—but only after eliminating the favoritism which makes GI's blood boil.

SHOTGUN BARGAINS

In Augusta, Ga., the other day the Army ordered a sale of surplus shotguns, pump guns and small-caliber rifles. Instead of letting every man who had fought for his country participate, however, the sale was restricted only to officers.

The guns were a real bargain—about half regular retail prices—and officers flocked to Augusta by Army plane. Some flew from Drew Field, Fla., some from Washington, D. C., some from as far west as Chicago and St. Joseph, Mo. De-luxe Army transportation was absolutely free and all sorts of planes ranging from C-46's to AT-6's were used by the future huntsmen to gobble up the shotgun bargains.

But the GI Joes who did as much as anyone else for their country weren't even allowed to get near the bargain counter. Furthermore, Naval reserve officers were not allowed to buy any shotguns either. Regular Navy officers with Annapolis pedigrees could buy, but not the lowly naval officer who came to his country's defense in the emergency.

OFFICERS' CLUBS

One thing which regular Army officers could well afford to clean up in the opinion of National Guard and reserve Army officers is the "officers' club racket"—especially the system whereby club funds are built up at the expense of temporary officers to be used by regular officers after the war.

The Schofield Officers' Club in Hawaii is a case in point. The treasury of this club accumulated the amazing total of $250,000 — so much that the Inspector General's office was called upon to investigate. When club officials were asked what they were going to do with this money, they stated quite frankly that they planned to build a $100,000 clubhouse after the war —on money made from temporary officers.

The Retreat From Moscow

The People's Platform

Electricity For North Carolina's Farmers

By HAL W. ATKINSON
Manager, Pee Dee Electric Membership Corporation

WADESBORO

THE recent statement by our President, Mr. U. B. Blalock, will, we believe, be of considerable interest to many of your rural subscribers not only in our section but in other sections of your area as well.

It is, in general, an indication of conditions all over the state and nation of the inability of rural residents to secure electric service. As you already know the REA Cooperatives in North Carolina have brought electric service to approximately 45,000 farm families in the past few years and present applications indicate that the combined efforts of all REA Cooperatives and the Power Companies are wholly inadequate to meet demands. The REA has informed the Congress of these demands but as yet monies have not been appropriated sufficient to make a very rapid advance. We are of course building lines as fast as possible, but to electrify the remaining 172,000 farms in North Carolina we need an expanded program. North Carolina still remains far down the list of states in percentage of unelectrified farms.

FUND EXHAUSTED

Mr. Blalock points out that the Department of Agriculture recently announced that after January 1 REA would be unable to make additional loans in 21 states, including North Carolina, out of the $200,000,000 fund authorized by Congress for REA loans during the fiscal year ending June 30, 1946. According to the announcement, loans of $127,000,000 had been made from the year's total up to December 7. At that time REA had on hand applications for additional loans of $190,000,000, or $117,000,000 more than the balance available for loans up to the end of the fiscal year.

The Pee Dee Electric Membership Corporation has already received approval of construction loans amounting to $223,000 from the current year's REA loan fund. This fund of $223,000 will make possible the construction of approximately 225 miles of distribution line to serve an estimated 700 consumers.

THE YEAR'S WORK

We estimate that the Pee Dee Electric Membership Corporation can extend electric service to 600 rural consumers in Anson, Union, Stanly, Richmond, Montgomery, Moore and Scotland Counties, in addition to 2,350 now served, and the 700 which will be reached by new lines for which loans have been allotted. We have met all interest and principal payments on our REA loans as they have come due, and have paid $25,500 on principal in advance of due dates. We feel that that record entitles us to further Government credit in order that we may complete our part of the rural electrification job remaining to be done in this state.

THE TASK AHEAD

As of last July 1, REA Administrator Claude R. Wickard estimated that 172,000 farms in North Carolina were still without electric service. Up to December 7, REA had allotted loans totalling $6,879,476 to North Carolina borrowers out of the current fiscal year's loan funds. In addition, applications for loans amounting to $10,094,000 were pending from the state.

North Carolina borrowers have exhausted their share of the half of the current fiscal year's national loan fund that is required by law to be allocated among all the states in the proportion which the number of unelectrified farms in each state bears to the total number of unelectrified farms in the nation. In addition to receiving their share of the allocated funds, North Carolina borrowers have applied for more than now appears available to them out of the unallocated half of the current fund.

INSISTENT DEMAND

Administrator Wickard said that the unprecendented volume of loan applications received by REA this year indicate "an increasingly insistent demand for electric service on the part of rural people." He pointed out that despite the rapid strides in rural electrification in the last ten years—an increase from 750,000 to 2,750,000 in the number of electrified farms—only 44.7 per cent of the nation's farms now enjoy this modern service. Only 38 per cent of North Carolina's farms now have electric service.

And Still They Wait

By 1ST LT. C. RICH

AFWESPAC, APO 707

The following is an exact reproduction of an article which appeared in the 20th November, 1945, edition of The Daily Pacifican, Army news organ in the Manila area. It is a perfect explanation of why troops in the Manila area are far from satisfied with existing conditions.

"Honolulu—Stars and Stripes, the Army newspaper, yesterday quoted the Navy as saying that 1,300 civilian Navy yard workers were being taken to the mainland aboard the carriers Hornet and Monterey because no Army or Navy personnel qualified for discharge in this area are available for shipment.

"Next to that explanation is an official mail-and-bound box score reporting that 804 Army enlisted men, 4,244 from the Navy, and 479 Marines are waiting at a personnel center in Honolulu for transportation home.

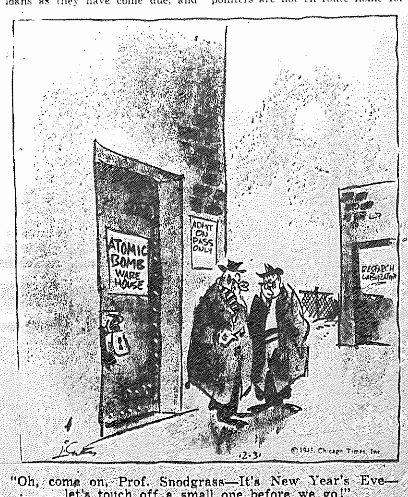
"The newspaper said that the record of the Central Pacific Army Command in completing demobilization of the high-point troops ahead of schedule is the exception—not the rule—in the Pacific Theater.

"A War Department chart which the paper published with official approval shows more than 540,000 Army enlisted men with more than 60 points — approximately 10 per cent of them have more than 85—still were in the Pacific Oct. 15.

"Stars and Stripes said the chart explains why it continues to receive letters from Korea, Okinawa, Guam and Iwo asking why high-pointers are not en route home for discharge along with the Central Pacific's 60-pointers and troops on the mainland being discharged with as few as 40 points."

Why do such conditions exist? What is being done to remedy the situation? The answer to the latter question is obvious — absolutely NOTHING! We do not consider the glowing figures conceived by the War Shipping Administration as action in any sense of the word. We've had nothing but promises this far and have watched them come to nothing. We do not want a fresh batch of promises even though they seem to suffice in the Continental United States. We want ships that now lie idle or are being used for other purposes throughout the world. We can't be fooled by promises as we are where the action should take place.

All we ask is that we be returned as we become eligible, not one or two or three months later—NOW. We are sick of supinely resting upon our posteriors in overcrowded replacement centers listening to empty words and vainly waiting for ships that never come in. Months and years of subjection to the steaming jungles, treacherous diseases, and suppressing heat of the Pacific have instilled within us who survive an overwhelming desire for the life we have almost forgotten.



"Oh, come on, Prof. Snodgrass—It's New Year's Eve—let's touch off a small one before we go!"

The Fort Mill Story Was "Most Silliest"

By H. G. WATSON

LUMBERTON

There is very little in your paper that I don't read. I always thought it was about the best, and still do.

I read that piece where Burke Davis wrote the 24th, entitled, "Charlotte People Flock To Fort Mill." I don't know anything about Charlotte or Fort Mill. But I do know that was the most silliest (sic) and sickening of anything I have ever read.

I only hope to see more of your paper, and less of his rot.

(NOTE: We considered the source of this hard-drinking community's liquor legitimate news, and thought Mr. Davis handled the story well. However, we agree with Mr. Watson that the spectacle of Charlotteans flocking to Fort Mill by the thousand to buy whisky is the "most silliest" sight we know, perhaps even a little sickening. By next Christmas we hope there will no longer be a story in Fort Mill, that the local burghers can buy their seasonal cheer right here at home.—Eds., THE NEWS).

The Appreciation Of Mr. Ramspeck

By ROBERT RAMSPECK
Member of Congress

Washington, D. C.

A friend has sent me your editorial of the 30th of November regarding my resignation from the Congress.

I want to tell you I appreciate this, particularly because it expresses more nearly than any other editorial I have seen, just the kind of a Representative I have tried to be.

Marquis Childs

The Problems Of Unification

WASHINGTON

ONE of the most forceful arguments President Truman made in his message calling for unification of the armed services was the necessity for economy if we are to maintain a military establishment that accords with our position of world responsibility.

Nowhere has this been faced up to. The armed services are still under the spell of the vast wartime appropriations that came almost automatically from Congress. They have not begun to try to cut their cloth to the stringencies of peace.

Even after all duplication is eliminated, the cost will plainly be very large. If Congress adopts the President's earlier recommendation for universal military training, something under a million eighteen-year-olds will be trained each year.

Except that their training is to be under officers of the regular services, these young trainees will have no connection with the Nation's military establishment. The regular Navy and the regular Army will have an existence entirely apart from the training function. On completion of their year of service the trainees would become part of the Army or Navy reserve, depending on the branch under which they trained.

A HUGE BILL

Inasmuch as both the professional Army and Navy must inevitably be larger than they were before 1940, the bill for military preparedness, particularly when the cost of training a million men is added, will not be small. How great will be the savings effected through unification no one can say.

But President Truman, through his years as chairman of the Senate's War Investigating Committee, is in a position to know that these savings can be substantial. There undoubtedly has been duplication and wasted effort as the two services have competed for prestige and position.

A great deal will depend, of course, on who is named Secretary of National Defense. Here the fears of the Navy are quite understandable. One of the reasons Navy men so bitterly opposed unification was because they feared the Secretary of a unified department would be a civilian completely indoctrinated in the Army point of view.

To some degree this is true of Secretary of War Robert P. Patterson. He conceived it his duty, as Undersecretary of War to fight for what the generals wanted. Perhaps in the midst of war for which we were unprepared, that was the only course he could have followed.

REAL CO-ORDINATION

But the responsibility of the first Secretary of a combined department will be something quite different. It will be his supremely difficult task, as President Truman suggested in his message, to bring about real co-ordination and not just a collection of separate commands under a single circus tent.

Secretary Patterson has failed to assert his authority as civilian head of the department over the most vital function of the Army today—the creation of atomic energy and the manufacture of atomic bombs. He has allowed all the responsibility to rest on Maj. Gen. Leslie R. Groves. On Gen. Groves' recommendation, he made the grievous mistake of ordering the destruction of Japan's cyclotrons.

The first test must come in Congress. From all previous indications a majority is ready to vote unification. It is an easier test than universal training and therefore we can hope for an early decision which will make it possible to revise our cumbersome military system.

Samuel Grafton

Box Score On Moscow Parley

NEW YORK

WE are a nation of baseball-scorers, and many of us are now happily scoring the Moscow conference. What did we give, what did we get? We'd better come out with something good in exchange for the recognition of Yugoslavia, warn not a few observers, solemnly. We've let Russia in on the control of Japan; what are we to receive for that? How many points has their side won; how many has ours? Something like this developed during the San Francisco conference, if you remember, and there was a period when some of the running accounts of that meeting sounded as if the sporting writers had got in by mistake, and were discussing, not the world, but the world series.

But the Moscow conference resists being scored by these methods. One of the effects of the meeting may have been to save the United Nations Organization. How many points does one assign for that development, and in whose column does on list them?

IT'S NOT APPEASEMENT

How, then, do we weigh the meeting? Perhaps one way is to try to set it, even roughly, in its proper place against a perspective of the past, the present, and the future. The Moscow meeting follows the disastrous London meeting of September, and the same man, Mr. Byrnes, was master of ceremonies for the American point of view at both. Some change must have taken place in Mr. Byrnes' mind between the two events; between the first meeting, to which Mr. Byrnes came armed with Mr. John Foster Dulles, and with a truculent resolve to have a congeries of smaller nations vote Russia down, and the second meeting, which was much more a parley of partners.

The meaning of the Moscow conference may be only that we have given a kind of legal recognition to the new place which Russia has won for herself in the world, after our September effort to avoid doing so; from this point of view, many of our apparent concessions at Moscow may be only a putting into words of those changes which have already taken place in reality, and in point of fact. The Moscow meeting made no great changes; it merely recognized that great changes have been made. This historical approach seems to me more productive of truth than the effort of the point-counters to see how many goals each side has scored, and who has the championship for the year.

NO EMPTY SCORING

Our progress in this world depends on other moves entirely; not on an empty scoring of points, but on great affirmations, on our associating ourselves with liberation movements in the Pacific, for example; on our supporting democratic governments, in say, Italy and Greece, with force and candor, on our giving aid to the ideal of a Spanish republic. That is how a nation wins valid and incontrovertible place in the world. "Points" are not won at conferences, but between conferences; conferences merely register points that have already been established in reality; a truth which the Russians seem to understand rather better than we.