

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 1945

## A Clean Record

Now, the Senate battle over William Williams as head of Rural Electrification has been a pretty tame affair. An investigation which opened with a snarl of trumpets is lagging, because for some reason the boys can't pin anything on Brother Williams.

The latest evidence, from our Lindsey Warren, is that the finance of R. E. A. which Mr. Williams directed, reflects no discredit upon this quiet young man who has been branded as a "Communist" these many years. That hearing did develop the news that Mr. Williams had once written a column asserting that Southern voters did a "magnificent thing" in ridding themselves of Dies of Texas, Starnes of Alabama and Smith of South Carolina. But that, we suppose, is a sentiment shared by Southerners themselves, and so cannot be put down as heresy.

A diligent search of the Williams record, from the time he was rising out of poverty in Birmingham on a family income of \$3.50 a week, up through his days in WPA and NYA reveals nothing to condemn him. He is suspected of Red because of his alleged affiliation with some outposts, youth-pacifist movements. But beyond that, nothing much is to be found.

We did discover that, in 1937, he told The Workers Alliance that it must go out to the huntings and "keep its friends in power" and that created a furore at the time. Further, he once opined that he was not "about class warfare is not all right." Thus, so far as we can determine, he is not only a mild and soft-spoken man, but also somewhat temperate in his views, even though he does stand toward the left.

Faced with these statements out of his past, Mr. Williams shook his head sadly at investigating committees, and admitted he'd made some awful mistakes in his time. But these mistakes, fortunately or unfortunately, were not serious enough to satisfy the men on his trail. To date, they have been unable to show that he is undesirable as head of REA. And though they're not thorough, they probably will find no incriminating evidence.

## Rich Man's Scheme

The Mecklenburg delegation to the General Assembly, led by Mr. Tonison, has submitted a resolution to Congress asking an amendment to limit Federal taxation to 25 per cent of total income. It has been long coming. North Carolina and though the Assembly isn't likely to approve, it at least adds the voices of some Tar Heels to those of eighteen other state legislatures which have approved this amendment.

The resolution must sound good to most taxpayers, reading it for the first time. But it has been castigated in Congress by Representative Patman of Texas, who has done much to expose the motives of its sponsors, The Committee for Constitutional Government. He has identified members of this committee with the names of its publisher, Sam Pettigill, an anti-New Deal ex-Congressman; and Edward A. Rumley, a convicted German agent during the last war.

In many of the state legislatures which have passed this resolution, it has been slipped through. And there are on record some declarations of members that they were under the influence of Rep. Patman, in one of his many speeches on the subject, listed these probable results of the adoption of the "millionaire's amendment":

1. The "ability to pay" principle would be discarded.
2. Small business would be put at a disadvantage, as big corporations would accumulate such huge profits.
3. The Federal Government will be unable to pay even interest on its war debt.
4. Dependents of servicemen will no longer be given relief by the Government.
5. Veterans and the aged will no longer receive payments.
6. Soil conservation and Federal building programs will be halted.

Whether or not these things would come to pass there are other, and equally deadly effects to be seen. The rich would be greatly benefited, but the tax bill of the little man would be greatly increased.

## Statesmen At Work

(Serious, facetious and comic excerpts from the Congressional Record.)

DURING House debate on the Farm Credit Repeal, Rep. Dinkins of Illinois rose to give his views of economic philosophy. He said: "Mr. Chairman, perhaps at the outset I ought to observe—and I think your own observation will coincide—that a rather distressing attitude has grown up in Congress. The word 'millionaire' has become a thing of no more; we have just knocked out the M and appended it with a B and we have thought of money out in my country. I think it becomes rather difficult for us, I suppose, to orient our thinking to a little bit of money. I think we are going along, Mr. Chairman, we have got to reorient our thinking. A million dollars is still a lot of money out in my country. I think it still is a lot of money in every section of the country. Perhaps we ought to think of it in terms of relief. When I think of it in terms of relief, I get a whole new idea of it."

increased. For example, a man with a \$10,000 income would pay a ceiling tax of \$250,000. Instead of the present rate of about 30 per cent, a man with a \$2,000 income, who now pays about \$175, would be boosted up to the limit, \$500.

That surely follows, for cutting Federal revenue at the top means that the difference must be made up at the bottom, and every taxpayer in the land, under this scheme, would certainly pay the limit—and there would still be a deficit. We trust that the General Assembly will give this resolution and its background through scrutiny before accepting it.

## Freedom Of Youth

We don't know that the campus affairs of William & Mary College are any of our business, but this week's little skirmish for press freedom there attracts our attention.

The young lady who was editor of the college paper, you'll remember, had written an unfortunate editorial advocating full social equality for Negroes on the campus. She expressed her own opinion, and it was surely not that of the college—and likely not that of the students themselves. In any event, she was dismissed from the editorship, and in the midst of quite a little furore the administration proposed faculty control of the paper.

Students, in full session, decided they'd sooner have no paper at all than one subject to faculty censorship, and so the matter stood for a few hours. Later a number of student leaders accepted a compromise, made student editors responsible for review, and a faculty member available to rule on questionable cases.

We don't know that press freedom has suffered there, though free expression surely has. And we are persuaded that, in the college atmosphere, where young people are prone to feel the full freedom more strongly than anywhere else, many of these points mean very little. But we are brought to reflect that, at the University of North Carolina, there is absolute freedom for The Daily Tar Heel—which is surely one of the outstanding college papers in the country. We suspect that, in the absence of faculty control, most collegiate newspapers would better themselves generally, become more responsible of their own accord, and serve to teach both undergraduates and adults the true meaning of the vague term "freedom."

## The Same Drys

The Prohibition referendum, as we had freely suspected all along, is not solely a move to outlaw legal liquor in the 25 wet counties. It is that, to be sure, but it is a question of the whole of North Carolina to the days of Messrs. Volstead and Turlington. From some source, probably a catalogue owned by a libertine friend, the Drys have obtained a list of all beverages containing even a modicum of alcoholic content, and have listed them for extinction: "brandy, whisky, rum, gin, beer, ale, porter, and wine" (they forgot stout, sake and slabbies).

Woodrow Wilson, a sympathetic Dry himself, have called it the wrong way of going about the right thing. For the insistence of the Drys in lumping together beverages of high alcoholic content and beverages of moderate alcoholic content is a piece of immorality itself. They never learn.

One wonders if they wish to learn, if it isn't the result of the victory, the imposition of their will on the state, which they mainly seek. In any case, it is to be noted that after the lapse of Turlingtonism in North Carolina, and the costly discrepancy for law-enforcement which it engendered, they have forborne to provide in their cherished referendum anything more than that, at a certain date; and upon a certain action at the polls, total prohibition shall go totally in effect.

The more we think about it, the more pleasant we are that the proposed referendum has little chance of getting-by to the Legislature.

Hark to the cigarette commercial. What vibrancy! What verve! What a message! And what a build-up to the tobacco clerk's flat "no."

here I think in terms of the entire tax take by the Federal Government in the form of income tax, and the effect of it on the American families. This helps me get my feet on the ground. The amount of money involved here will probably be the equivalent of the total income tax that is squeezed out of the 35,000 families in the city of Peoria, Ill., and since it is almost an identical function it takes on some new meaning for me.

It is not one of those who believe that there is something with boarding because it is to spend money, nor do I believe that there are times when the best thing is to do is to spend money. There must be an endeavor to secure value for whatever money is appropriated. It, therefore, behooves us to think of it in terms of value.

# The Merry-Go-Round

By Drew Pearson

HARD-BOLDED members of the diplomatic corps, accustomed to judging international conferences by what goes on behind the scenes rather than by official conclusions, are reserving final decision on the Big Three conference. However, their immediate reaction is that Roosevelt got more than they expected, perhaps better than 50 per cent.

To get the true perspective of what Roosevelt achieved, it is necessary to remember what he was bargaining with—which, in the eyes of seasoned diplomats, wasn't much.

In the first place, this was the one of the few conferences in 400 years when the British Prime Minister did not have at his call the greatest Navy in the world. For four centuries the British, sitting at international conferences, could say: "If you don't agree, we can bottle up your port."

Just one century before, the British fleet had carried 200,000 French and British troops across the Black Sea to the Crimea—the approximate spot where the Big Three conferred—in a bold move to block the czar from moving down to the Dardanelles. For 100 years since then, the British fleet, sometimes with help from the one-time Japanese ally, have kept the vast area of landlocked Russia with no warm water outlet to the sea.

## Stalin's Goodwill

This time, however, Churchill had neither a great fleet nor an overwhelming air force with which to bargain. He relied chiefly on support from his friend, Franklin Roosevelt, and Roosevelt, in turn, was relying chiefly on Stalin's goodwill.

Roosevelt had two great objectives. One was to buy the services of the Red Army. The other was to construct a permanent peace in Europe.

Reliance on the Red Army naturally meant more lives saved in the American Army, and a quicker end of the war. But reliance on the Red Army also meant concessions to Russia.

## Did Someone Say U. S. Navy?



## The Meaning Of Yalta

By Samuel Grafton

HOW important is it now that President Roosevelt, a couple of months ago, appointed such a number of conservatives to the State Department, such as Messrs. Stettinius, Clayton, Green, Rockefeller, etc.? In the light of the big news from the conference at Yalta, in the Crimea, and the news that so rapidly that you have to get down on your hands and knees to keep sight of it at all.

Clear, but they then support the decisions reached by Roosevelt, Churchill and Stalin in the old Summer Palace of the Czar, their presence in the State Department is actually help, a demonstration that many sections of American opinion, not just yours and your uncle's, are behind our foreign policy. This ought to be a lesson to those who are forever vaunting the President to see whether he is going left or right, right or left. He is going forward, a direction which some old-fashioned political instruments are not called for recording.

The decisions of the Yalta conference are rugged and real. They make many of our "pure" attitudes of only a few weeks ago seem remarkably childish. Remember our great grim debate on whether the world is to be run by power or by principles?

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ABOARD LST 293, CROSSING THE ENGLISH CHANNEL, THE stream of traffic that started across the Channel on D-Day has never stopped. While nothing like the vast armada that opened the invasion, the flow of men and supplies is still so large that the U. S. Navy has a double transport task on its hands.

If the war is nearly over, as "spokesmen" in Washington are beginning to hint again, the Navy doesn't know it. Navy men still know that the shipping program is hunting again formidable numbers, and the perils from enemy and weather seem as real as ever.

The fog is closing down so tight that the bow of the ship is barely visible. But along with the darkness, it is a cover for the convoy forming up for the night run to a French port. The voices on the bridge are muffled.

This 4th Channel crossing of LST 293 is routine, except for the occasion like this can ever be required. Because the hazards are always unexpected, caution must be constant. A blinker light is signaling us and somewhere a fog horn is sounding.

Just one place past another LST that in spite of the mist and dark you can almost read the numbers on her bow. Ours is the lead ship and the responsibility on the Skipper is heavy. He gives terse orders down the speaking tube to the navigator and steerman below.

It is raining and the rain may clear the fog, which may also serve to make us a more obvious target. Blinker messages come from one of the corvettes assigned to escort us, asking if visibility is sufficient to permit a crossing.

"Reply in the affirmative," the Skipper tells our signalman.

Minutes later the same query is repeated, and the reply is also the same. The captain of the corvette obviously doesn't like the prospect, and I for one, am not sure.

This briefly was the diplomatic problem which faced Roosevelt. These were the cards with which he had to play. Out of this, the most important negotiation of the entire war, came the following apparent results:

Roosevelt victories can be chalked up as:

1. Preserving and strengthening Allied military cooperation. This is all-important. For people realized it, but a few short weeks ago, the grand alliance was almost on the rocks. High U. S. military chiefs were grumbling at the delay of the Red Army in invading Poland. The sharp accusations in the Army-Navy Journal were not an accident and the Russians knew it. U. S. war chiefs were also irked at British delays. At Yalta, however, closer co-operation between the general staffs has been arranged—hitherto nonexistent with the Russians.

2. The Red Army will not dominate Germany. This is also vitally important. One week ago it was fully expected that the "Committee of 10,000 Germans" organized inside Russia, would take over the entire German Government under Moscow.

3. Democratic governments in liberated Europe are guaranteed. This is a Roosevelt victory over both Churchill and Stalin—if it is carried out. Churchill had erred in Greece, Belgium and Italy. Stalin had erred in Bulgaria, Romania and Yugoslavia.

## Roosevelt Defeats

On the other side of the ledger, the following are considered by some as Roosevelt defeats:

1. No announced agreement by Russia to make war on Japan. This, however, is offset by the fact that the United Nations meeting in San Francisco will be held April 25, the last day Russia can break unilaterally with Japan.
2. No announced agreement on voting procedure for Dumbarton Oaks. An agreement, it was stated, was scheduled for March 25.
3. Poland's forced new boundaries may also be considered a defeat. Many diplomats, however, felt this was a foregone conclusion. The old, expanded Poland which took in large hunks of Russian population, was really doomed as far back as May, 1942.



"Sh! Not so loud, dear! He doesn't want to borrow anything this time—just wants to know if you couldn't come over and fix our toaster!"

## Word From High

By Dorothy Thompson

NEW YORK

FROM A historical standpoint, but also an outstanding fact about the Crimea conference is that for the first time in history the fate of Europe in the traditional meaning, has been decided without the presence of a single European country. The Big Three have established themselves, for the first time, politically, as Europe's arbiters. While asserting for European countries, the right and duty of self-government, they also announced the intention of the Big Three to supervise and control governmental processes at least in emergency cases.

At this moment, is the great role played by the President of the United States. His hand in the government of Europe has been almost everywhere in every paragraph. This is visible not only in the emphasis implicit everywhere on collective security, as opposed to spheres of influence, but in details regarding Poland, Yugoslavia, and even France.

It is not our purpose, says the document, "to destroy the people of Germany, but only when the people of Germany have been exterminated will there be hope for a decent life for Germany and for the people of Europe."

What has been settled are only problems relating to military occupation. Germany is to be divided into four zones, each to be subject to reparations. But the future of the German people is not decided. Will Germany be dismembered into several states, as advocated by Mussolini? Or will it remain unified?

There is evidence for either outcome. If it were the intention not to dismember the Reich, it would have been well to say so for reasons of psychological warfare. But the reassurances given by the Germans carefully avoid any mention of the German state.

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On the other hand, the ignoring of de Gaulle's demand for the truncation of Germany in the west, the formal disavowal of the plan assigned for the military occupation of Germany militate against partition. Originally the plan was to have Germany divided for division into three or four zones, each to be occupied by one of the four nations. The Crimea plan puts all occupying armies under a central command, and immediately puts the administration for the whole Reich.

It would therefore seem that the crucial question of the German political future has been decided but awaits the experience of the Allies in the moment of surrender and during the occupation.

## Battle Sidelights

By Hal Boyle

"Throw your rifles outside and surrender." Out came the rifles followed by three Germans with their hands up. All Karr had to do was wait an empty mortar shell about as dangerous as a three-foot rain pipe.

Returning from a sniper hunt to clean out some woods for his infantry company, Pvt. Gerald G. Stokes of "Tank" Co. became separated from his group.

When he bumped into the men from the relieving company, he was waited up to the company commander and said:

"What's going on?" The captain took one look at his "gilt mit une" belt, his from cross and Nazi bayonet—all battlefield souvenirs—and immediately put him under arrest as a deserter.

"I am a paratrooper," yelled Stokes indignantly. "You're too small to be a paratrooper," replied the captain. Stokes was brought back to a prisoner of war pen, probably the most forlorn paratrooper in the history of airborne warfare.

There someone recognized him and a few minutes later he was free and holding his own. He gave the captain a meaningful look as he stalked away.

A new way to double a cigarette ration has been found by Pvt. David O. Twilight, of Hawthorne, Wis.—just caught away with a pack of cigarettes.