EDITORIAL PAGE
THE CHARLOTTE NEWS

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Service Wanted

It was good news in Charlotte when the Southern Railway put its common stock on a $3.00-dividend basis. Good news not only to the holders of this stock, who went dividend-less from 1931 to 1943 (when a tentative $2.00 was paid), but good news to the citizenry at large.

For the Southern serves Charlotte. At the moment, so far as its local facilities for the accommodation of passengers are concerned, the Southern is serving Charlotte in the style of the gay nineties, and will, we think, promptly concede that its station is a poor advertisement both for the city and the railroad, and miserably inadequate.

It recognized as much even back in 1926, nearly twenty years ago, when it proposed to make major improvements in the Charlotte station. For some reason now obscure, the City Commissioners saw fit to deny the company a building permit—possibly because of objection to the site on which a railroad station never should have been located to begin with. At any rate, an opportunity was lost. Then, the Southern had dough (its common was paying $6.00). It is only beginning to get into the dough again, and must experience some uncertainty as to how long after the war it will last.

Nevertheless, the city should insist — and be prepared to render all possible co-operation, perhaps even bearing some items of the costs—that the Southern build a station here of a size and appearance commensurate to the traffic it derives from Charlotte. It may be wise, after due consultation, to relocate the station; it may not. But it is imperative that a better station be planned now and built when building becomes possible again.

Anybody who agrees with that statement may endorse it with emphasis by clipping out this piece and mailing it to H. A. DeButts, Vice President, Southern Railway System, Washington, D. C.

In High Gear

We can't remember a campaign more ably conducted than the recent March of Dimes in Mecklenburg. The local phase of the campaign by the National Foundation for Infantile Paralysis went over quickly, and rather quietly. It exceeded its $25,000 quota by about one-fifth, ahead of schedule.

Its volunteer chairman announced that fact to the public without further ado, and the campaign came to an end. There was none of the manipulation so common to charitable campaigns—no waiting until the last moment to go for over the goal, to continue breast-beating when it was obvious that the needed funds were already in. March of Dimes made its appeal simply and fairly, and when the people of Mecklenburg had heard, and answered, the books were closed.

Such a campaign must stir public admiration, and win confidence. It makes it all the more certain that this particular heart-touching call will be as quickly answered again, in the years to come.

Wrong Approach

The bill to abolish race segregation on interstate buses, trains and planes, offered by a new Negro Representative from New York, hasn't a chance of passage. Southern Representatives were quick to say as much. They think it is likely to die in committee, one place or another, and that if it gets by the House, the Senate will filibuster it to death. It falls into a class with anti-lynching and anti-poll tax bills, so far as Dixie's solons are concerned.

And, aside from the merits of the bill as it stands, it belongs in this category reserved for limbo. This ban on Jim Crow laws in fifteen Southern states is simply the wrong approach. However much liberal elements might yearn for an end to segregation—and however sincere they may be in their approach—this sort of thing just isn't for legislation. Particularly it is not for Federal legislation.

It is possible, in this time, for so respected a Southern newspaper as the *Richmond Times-Dispatch* to advocate an end to Jim Crowism in Virginia, without inciting citizens to riot. But even that proposal, home-made, makes little or no progress in betterment of race relations. And when Congress attempts to put an end to this time-honored Southern practice, it stirs immediate resistance and rebellion.

If segregation is coming to an end it must come of Southern impetus, and under Southern leadership. It will not come, we dare say, until a good deal of progress has been made in race relations, and the Negro has made progress in many other fields. It will have to come as a natural result of improved relations inside the South. They might legislate forever in Washington, but they'd never get Southern obeisance by such summary methods.

Keeping The Pace

Americans at home were surely appalled to read yesterday that the Army and Navy have now lost over 154,000 men killed, in the lengthening roll of casualties. And, linked as they are to the fighting fronts, civilians must have been moved at the very thought of so much heart-breaking sacrifice for war. And yet the civilian at home remains singularly unimpressed by the toll of death at home, on the highways. He must be, for he is taking some part in the continuing traffic slaughter which has declined only slightly during the war.

Last year we managed to kill 23,800 Americans in motor vehicle accidents — about the same number we killed in 1943. And we did it with A cards, on low rations of tires, with older, slower automobiles. We did it in face of travel bans, despite the greatly reduced number of cars on the highways, and despite lowered speed limits.

Considering that we are now well into our fourth year of war, and that we have lost an average of less than 50,000 lives a year on the battlefronts, the murder on highways at home becomes downright incredible. About half as many deaths are caused by traffic accidents as by bullets, shells and bombs.

Before the war, when traffic was running wide open, we killed more, of course. It went like this:

1937, 37,285; 1938, 30,564; 1939, 30,468; 1940, 32,245; 1941, 37,512.

By 1942, the death toll had dropped to 28,369, and has not risen since.

But we shudder to think what turn the figures will take after the war, when an incalculable number of automobiles will be turned loose on improved roads, and America turns back to reckless haste. Think what the toll will be, if we continue to progress in our skill at death-dealing on the highways, when the restrictions are off and motoring America turns out to see what the new bus will do. From the angle of casualties alone, we may never know the war has been ended.

Tug Of War

In the midst of the most tragic and awesome scenes of the war—as in this moment when Germany approaches her Gotterdamerung—the most ludicrous by-play is offered in the see-saw debate between United Nations, East and West.

It may be shrugged off as inconsequential that *Izvestia*, the official Soviet organ, is now calling for a new push from the West, but this follows a well-worn pattern. This is the second call within recent weeks. The last came while the Germans were breaking out into the Belgian bulge, and Moscow's official and semi-official voices were belittling British-American military problems.

At that moment, remember, the Russians were stalled, gathering forces for a new offensive. And there were calls from the West that Red Armies must hasten, strike the blow, and perfect the double squeeze. Moscow's retorts were heated. Those, in turn, recalled the frantic Russian pleas for a Second Front, in the long months before D-Day in Normandy.

This has gone back and forth for over two years, and it reveals what must be a weakness in over-all Allied planning. General Marshall testified as recently as last week, according to Drew Pearson, that he had no prior knowledge of the coming of the present Russian offensive. Thus, while Western armies were struggling to hold their lines, the Red tide broke the Eastern barriers. And now that the tide has swept to the Oder, our Eastern partners call us again, loudly. We could use a co-ordinator, these days.

The Merry-Go-Round

By Drew Pearson

WASHINGTON

PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT has what his advisers describe as some tough diplomatic medicine ready for Winston Churchill at the Big Three meeting "over yonder." It pertains chiefly to Greece and Italy. This was what Harry Hopkins was hinting at when, in his Rome interview, he said the American people wanted an idealistic peace and the triumph of democracies in the liberated countries.

What Roosevelt has in store for Churchill is first, a demand that the British quit meddling in the politics of liberated countries—Greece, Italy, and Belgium; second, he will demand that an Allied commission be established in each liberated country to guide the new liberated governments, and that this Allied commission report, to a conference of Big Four Foreign Ministers approximately every three months.

The Big Four Foreign Ministers would establish permanent headquarters in Europe, probably in Paris. And the Foreign Minister of France would be added to the Big Three (Russia, Britain and the U. S. A.), thus making up the Big Four.

This was what Harry Hopkins meant when he said in Rome that the political structure of Europe could not wait until the war was over.

F. R. Watched Wilson

Inside fact is that the President has gone through an important change of policy regarding Europe's political problems during the past two years. At Casablanca in January, 1943, he gave Churchill a pledge that the British could have military direction of all operations in the Mediterranean, following which Churchill went to Turkey and informed the Turks that the British had been given the Mediterranean as their sphere of operations and that the Turks would have to do business with London.

Churchill's implication was that the Turks would have to do business with the British politically and economically, as well as on military matters. This went far beyond what Roosevelt thought he promised at Casablanca, and privately he hit the ceiling. However, the President apparently did nothing at the time to correct Churchill, for the latter continued to have his way in the Mediterranean. All U. S. messages to the Balkans had to clear through British codes, while U. S. officers going to the Balkans had to travel in British ships or planes. If they didn't like certain U. S. officers who opposed the Greek King, these officers didn't get to Greece.

At Teheran also, the President seemed more interested in the Pacific than in Mediterranean problems. He let Churchill and Stalin dicker over their respectives spheres of influence in the Balkans; Russia taking Roumania, Bulgaria and Eastern Yugoslavia as its sphere; Britain getting the right to influence Greece and the Adriatic coast of Yugoslavia.

The President's thinking up to that time seemed to follow the line that his old chief, Woodrow Wilson, got into trouble by trying to iron out the detailed problems of Europe—Fiume, Memel and Upper Silesia—and that he, Roosevelt, would let Europe iron out its own problems. So he evinced more interest in the islands of the Pacific, the possibility of an American naval base in French Indo-China and close co-operation between Australia, New Zealand, Canada and the U. S. A.

White House advisers say that it was the shooting of Greek civilians by British tanks, plus Churchill's rebuff to Count Sforza in Rome, plus the surrounding of the Belgian Parliament with British tanks, which caused the President to reverse his policy. During the Greek crisis, FDR sent some stiff messages to Churchill demanding that the Athens situation be cleaned up and warning him that he was alienating American public opinion.

At the Big Three conference, the President will do his best to work out an immediate and constructive political machine to give the liberated countries a democratic break.

"I'm Collecting On That Bauble You Bought!"

Germany's Fate Still Undecided

By Marquis Childs

LONDON

WITH only a few hundred miles separating the Russian and Allied armies and a major crisis of the war seemingly near, vital decisions concerning the occupation of Germany have not yet been reached.

I have just had a brief insight into the muddle, confusion and delay that have apparently made it impossible to formulate the American position. It is, and I use the word deliberately, frightening. The end result can only be disillusion and worse.

The real danger of our losing the victory, it seems to me, lies not in the Grand Alliance falling apart. It is that fumbling and fuddling in occupied Germany may provide a perfect setting for the resurgence of Fascism.

It is difficult in a brief space to give a picture of what has happened, or rather, what has not happened, but in this and the following column an attempt will be made.

It begins with President Roosevelt assigning to the military **the authority and domination in the first two phases of occupation following the surrender of Germany. It is inevitable that the first phase be military, since it coincides with the conquests. The second phase is to cover the period between military occupation and dissolution of Supreme Headquarters of the Allied Expeditionary Force. The third phase is to be that of tripartite control, although whether this is to be carried out on the basis of separate zones or through one central government will apparently be determined—because of the way in which the tripartite government is set up—only in the actual test of occupation.**

Authority is to be exercised in the first two phases through SHAEF. To do the job, the U. S. Army has established here in England a special staff planning center which is known as the United States Government Control Council. Here, handbooks for the German occupation have been worked out and special military personnel trained.

Little or no provision has been made for co-operation of U. S. civilian agencies in the occupation. This means that men with the technical background necessary to carry out the complicated phases of the task must almost necessarily go into uniform if they are to participate. They then become subject to the chain of command, and their expert knowledge may be vetoed at half a dozen points. Few top men would be willing to accept responsibility under such circumstances.

It is not that the military has grabbed authority, or even necessarily wanted it. In a sense, it was forced on them. After all, for many months military authorities have been trying without success to unload responsibility for Southern Italy.

But having had to accept responsibility, they are guarding it jealously, suspicious of attempts by civilians to participate. The military, confronted with this grave responsibility, will try to do a workmanlike technical job. The military manual says that no Nazis will be retained in policy-making positions, but policy-making is not defined. Correspondents back from the front say that conquered Aachen is being run, under American occupation, by two Nazi industrialists.

Under such a situation, the Nazi underground could appeal most effectively to the German people, and to impoverished Europe as well. They could say: "The Americans cannot do what they said they could do. They cannot restore democracy because democracy is bungling and ineffectual." The modified version of the Reich would furnish documentation for such a propaganda line.

The Senate Must Fight Again

By Samuel Grafton

NEW YORK

IT was easy enough for Senate conservatives to block Henry Wallace's plan for 60,000,000 post war jobs. But now what? The labor movement in America will hardly accept this action as final. It is hard to imagine Philip Murray of the CIO saying to Sidney Hillman of the P.A.C.: "Well, Sidney, looks as if we're licked." And Mr. Hillman replying: "Yes, Phil. It's all over." And Mr. Murray saying: "Touch." Then they take down their office signs, throw away their stationery, and go out of business.

The actual outcome will be exactly the reverse of this pipe-dream. The Senate's conservatives will find that they have given the P.A.C. a powerful stimulus, a program, and a name to which the program belongs. Life goes on, you know; one thing leads to another; but these are principles which conservatism finds it extremely hard to learn. It is addicted to terminal thinking; it invariably believes it is ending something when it is only starting it.

The Senate's conservatives will soon find themselves compelled to fight the labor movement. Naturally, after tying the hands of one Henry Wallace, they will look up to find ten thousand Henry Wallaces breathing down their necks. Congressional conservatism will then stir unhappily, and try to dream up another law. The impulse has already shown itself in the effort to pun an open-shop amendment on the Mav-Bailey bill for national service. One thing leads to another, and Congressional conservatism, having committed themselves on the Wallace matter, will go on morosely to do battle with up to 20,000,000 organized workers.

Only they will find that it is much easier to bowl down the symbol, Wallace, than to vote out of their sight and hearing the realities of post-war unemployment and distress.

One thing leads to another. The isolationist press of America, most bitter against Henry Wallace, is now republishing its favorite phantasy. It tells its readers how the Servicemen are going to return to America in a high state of fury; that they are going to "take the Government over"; that the home-coming soldier is going to have a kind of field day of toppling over Government agencies, and running out of Washington such vipers as believe that every man is entitled to a job.

This delicious dream of discord comes naturally to the minds of those who don't want to provide for full employment. Having chosen the road of obduracy instead of compromise, they find it necessary to set group against group, to have a favored group and a hated group, perhaps on the theory that it will be the chapter in the end to do a lot for the soldiers, and let them mangle the labor movement, than to do something for everybody.

Statesmen At Work

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

REP. KILDAY of Texas was debating the work-or-fight bill in the House, at some length, when:

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. I wonder if the gentleman from Texas draws any distinction between the Government's right to draft a man to fight and the Government's right to draft a man to work.

Mr. KILDAY. The gentleman and I argued that out in the Committee on Rules the other day. I should like to take a day sometime to discuss the Constitution with the gentleman.

Mr. BROWN. I should be very happy to be enlightened on it, if the gentleman will do it.

Mr. KILDAY. Our power is to raise and maintain armies. It is not armies of men, it is armies equipped with munitions of war.

Mr. BROWN. Is there a difference between drafting a man to work for the Government and drafting a man to work for private employers?

Mr. KILDAY. I cannot see the distinction. We are going to maintain in this country the profit system and depend upon it to produce weapons of war, and they are not able to get the men to turn them out in the time required, then I am not ready to quibble about whether you are putting them to work for a private employer. What I want to know is who is going to get the product. If the Army and the Navy are to get it, I say it is perfectly constitutional. I prefer not to continue this discussion further at this time.

There followed an interim of debate on scattered points of the bill, when Rep. Kilday and Rep. Colmer of Mississippi fell out over the status of war workers who go on strike, and this followed:

Mr. COLMER. Then if a man goes on strike the local board says that he left his employment in the best interest of the war effort?

Mr. KILDAY. Oh, no. Now, I refuse to yield any further on that question.

Mr. COLMER. But you did yield to me. Let us follow that up.

Mr. KILDAY. You and I can reason anything out to an absurd conclusion.

Mr. COLMER. Now, the gentleman has been so nice to me.

Mr. KILDAY. I am going to have to refuse to yield any further, Mr. Chairman.

SIDE GLANCES By Galbraith

"Mother, I guess what this doll needs is a shot of plasma!"

City Hall Today

By Dick Young

From the first I was dubious about the extension of the city limits and doubted if municipal authorities would hurry into any move to push out the boundaries at this time. I recalled the headaches suffered by city officials when the lines were extended in 1928 and wondered if the present administration would relish taking in new territory with its demands for services when those services might not be forthcoming because of wartime shortages. But Mayor Baxter was all for it and insisted the question would be discussed at last week's Council session. He had arranged to have a city map showing a tentative line of extension.

Mr. Young

There was a different approach at last Monday's meeting of the Planning Board and Mayor Baxter himself was the one who applied the brakes. Hizzoner asserted that this is not the time for inclusion of new areas into the city and suggested to the Board that it should leave boundary extension for future discussion and give immediate attention to a war memorial to honor those boys who "are suffering and dying for us." I agree most heartily with him on the war memorial (and the plans for a new library, too) but I am wondering why the rush "about face" on the extension issue.

Major John Craig, the smart young boy who stood out in the Police Department before he entered the service, frequently drops me notes, with clippings from The Stars and Stripes about his beloved 30th Division. He comes across with a most interesting item about a probable change in the design of the Old Hickory's insignia. The boys of the 30th Division whose daddies broke the Hindenburg Line in the other war had been making life so miserable for the Jerries that "Sally," the propaganda gal in her broadcasts from Berlin had called them "P. D. R's S.S. Troops." The boys rather fancied the idea. They agreed that they were really elite Troops, a chosen few and top-notch fighters. And one of the officers suggested they throw Sally's sallies right back in her face and alter the division's shoulder patch. The clipping from Major Craig showed the design which combines the O and H, with its XXX across the bar of the H, which s so familiar to Carolinians, with two flashes of lightning, the SS troopers' insignia at one end of the H and the President's well-known initials at the other end.

Dr. Roy Wolfe, dairy inspector of the Health Department, recently attended a state conference for veterinarians at North Carolina State College . . . Tom Revelle has been called many names since he took over the superintendency of the Pet Department but it was left for an aged Negro woman to dub him, "Mr. Pet" . . . Mrs. Ruby Simpson, whose office in the engineering department is down the hall from Mr. Revelle's, was approached timidly by the old woman with the inquiry, "Where's Mr Pet?" . . . Mrs. Ann Nivens is the new stenographic assistant in the municipal accountant's office, succeeding Miss Viola Coble.

After Berlin

By Dorothy Thompson

NEW YORK

IN the moment when this is written (Wednesday) the Russians are fifty miles from Berlin, and nobody can say exactly when they will stand at the gates of the German capital or how long the fight for Berlin will last.

But in his speech Tuesday evening, I had the impression that Hitler—without, of course mentioning it — had already given up the German capital. Basically, it was certainly Hitler who made that speech. It was in great contrast to the speech, presumably delivered by Hitler on New Year's Eve. There was at that time some speculation that someone else might have stood in for the Fuehrer, but no one familiar for years with Hitler's vocabulary, voice, or delivery, could fail to recognize them all in this last speech.

And it was not the speech of a defeated spirit. This is significant. For militarily the situation of Germany is hopeless and Hitler knows it. He knows that the military war is already lost. Of course, he did not say so. He said, "we will fight on to final victory." But he did not elaborate on military means of achieving this, nor make any military promises.

The speech was primarily political and a careful study reveals that it believes that if the organized German military resistance is broken there will be no armistice on December and no peace. And it is political. Nazism is full of a war which is lost, and has not ended, of a victory which is yet to be translated into real terms of a Europe which is liberated but not pacified, the Nazi revolutionary counter-revolution will not be lost, but will eventually, in the inherent nature of things, win over those groups of those who are now its enemies.

This idea is presented with some care. Hitler is clearly convinced that the last run it will be Anglo-Saxon versus the United States and the Soviet Union to agree on a European peace. It is obvious that Hitler his mental processes like those of Lenin and Trotsky, after the last war. Then they signed with Germany a Carthaginian peace which partitioned Russia. Russia lost the Baltic states, Finland, and the entire Ukraine at Brest Litovsk. But the Bolshevist leaders argued that this was entirely temporary, that social forces consolidating in the world for a revolutionary showdown would end in civil wars, and in the chaos and weakness caused by these, the Soviet Union would recover and expand.

At the end of the last war the Soviets had only one interest—to prevent consolidation of any non-communist social order in Europe. But that happened the Treaty of Versailles was made. Russia had been final. So they tried by revolutionary means, to keep all social orders in a state of flux. Far from assisting Social, Democratic parties, which represented the solidest progressive forces in all European countries, and supporting a solid labor movement, they directed their attacks precisely at these knowing that these, and not the reactionary parties held the best promise for bringing about a new political order satisfactory to the masses of the people.

Now, Hitler, who is a revolutionary tactician and an able one, sees in the situation following this war exactly the same opportunity. He thinks he is prepared to fight now on this side, now on that.

He intends to prevent any orderly demobilization of Germany. Soldiers must keep their arms, and the more chaos the better, and the more civil war the better.

For he speculates that ultimately Russian troops and Anglo-American troops will become involved in these Nazi-promoted conflicts, and on opposite sides. In this situation the Nazis will have bargaining power. Hitler does not believe in the capacity of the democracies to fight the Russians—nor, for that matter, without the Russians, to fight the Germans successfully—and he makes clear his confidence that in this situation the Germans will be called out of the grave of their military defeat to have the West against the East.

That this is Hitler's concept cannot be proved by word by word quotations, but it is implicit in his whole argument, and is the only explanation of his unbroken confidence in such a moment.

If the speculation were entirely intellectual, it would not be worth discussion. It is a calculation of despair. But it holds a nucleus of reason. And this specter can only be positively exercised, if the three great allies can envision and agree on a program for Germany and Europe, which provides lasting pacification and consolidation, ending revolutionary adventurism, and thus foiling Hitler's policy, of victory through catastrophe.