EDITORIAL PAGE

THE CHARLOTTE NEWS

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WEDNESDAY, MARCH 21, 1945

## It's Old Stuff

**The President and May 20 got together by sheer coincidence on "I Am An American Day." It isn't likely that Mr. Roosevelt knew that the date would also mark the 170th anniversary of the signing of Mecklenburg's Declaration of Independence. But that it does, and in these parts we shall have two occasions on our hands.**

"I Am An American Day," says the President, shall be celebrated in honor of all new American citizens who have come into the full fellowship of the United States. He recalled that our thousands of new citizens are helping in the struggle against tyranny today, and Mecklenburg, we presume, is willing to help the nation welcome those citizens.

But primarily Mecklenburgers will be celebrating "I Been An American Day." They're no upstarts at this business.

## No Haven Here

Seven Charlotte youngsters, whose ages range from 15 to 17, have been getting away with big-time delinquency for a long time. A favorite sport with them had been car-borrowing, a little pastime which gave them joy-rides and occasionally ended in an accident. But in addition they did one time resort to highway robbery. It was a carefree little clique, and now it has been broken up—but not entirely.

When the boys went into Mecklenburg's Superior Court, spectators were impressed by their bravado. There was, in keeping with the Court's traditions, a vague mention that "most of them have records." Judge Richard Dixon, hearing the case without jury, promptly sent four of them to the roads. Two others were placed on probation and given suspended sentences. The case of one was held open at the request of his attorney, who said that efforts are being made to get him into the Marines.

It has been patiently explained to Solicitor John Carpenter, chief resident factotum of Mecklenburg's Superior Court, that the Army, the Navy and the Marine Corps look with extreme disfavor on the use of the services as a reform school. The Solicitor should have known of this attitude by now and passed the word to the Judge, who is a visitor. Judge, he might have said, the services are funny about criminals. They say they've got the best of our American youth under their banner, serving their country devotedly, and they'll just be danged if they want to thrust on them the companionship of some criminal who's serving only to get out of a road sentence.

For verification we called up Chief C. P. Rhodes of the local Naval Recruiting Station. Here is what he said:

"The Navy and the Marines aren't running a house of correction. No boy with a criminal record could get in it in the first place, although he might if there was only some misdemeanor involved. And no judge can know when he suspends sentence whether or not the Navy or Marines will take him."

That, to our notion, is not only a plain statement of the case but a sensible one. Who would have it any other way?

## The New Joshua

Fiorello La Guardia, now, is one for the books. He always has been, for he wears a colorful personality like a madly gyrating halo. But at the moment we have him down as the most high-handed little man in all these United States. And it isn't just that he's caught the John Lewis fever this Spring. He's in typical form, challenging the Federal order for a curfew in New York night spots.

Mr. Byrnes seemed a little foolish to us, ordering sternly that night clubs and amusement houses close at midnight. He sounded as if he intended to bring home to easy-living Americans the realization that there was a war on in the world. His order struck us as not a little capricious, a muttering from on high: "Folks got no business sitting around drinking after midnight, anyway."

But wise or not, the order stood, and the War Manpower Commission stood behind it as an enforcement agency. The Little Flower, communing with himself, announced grandly that the curfew wouldn't do for New York City. Go ahead, he said. Stay open an hour longer. Curfew shall not ring until one o'clock. And when it occurred to him that the City itself had installed a midnight curfew, he brushed it aside grandly, saying: "We won't worry about that. We just won't report any violations until one o'clock."

This may be a benevolent little dictatorship, but it's surely air-tight. We don't know that we ever saw such casual defiance of Federal wishes. Tisn't vicious, like that of John Lewis, nor does it arouse passions in the breast, as did Sewell Avery. It's just the Little Flower again, as dogmatic and grandiose as ever. In himself, he is Government. Drink up, boys! La Guardia is with us yet.

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Statistics gathered by the industry show the average soldier uses 43 matches a day, whereas an old sailor facing windward and cupping his hands requires only 31.

## The Dolphin Boys

If you have a son in the Navy, ma'am, and he should have happened to draw submarine duty, which gave you a queasy feeling in the pit of your stomach that comes over you every time you think of him being cooped up in one of those things, and if he should come home one of these days flaunting almost no spinach on his blue jumper except a bestarred theater ribbon and maybe one for good conduct or BPH but none of these numerous medals or clusters all the other boys are wearing, especially the Army Air Force boys, be sure, ma'am, not to take your son too lightly as a hero. By the mere nature of his duty he is a hero of the first order, and don't let the lack of visible tokens give you any notion that he has sat out the war.

First of all you should remember, ma'am, that the Navy submarine service is considered to make a man or a boy one of the elite. With no derogation of the Wings of Gold they give to the aviation boys, the ratio of exchange for the Gold Dolphins is about twenty to one. And that's fair enough.

And then you should keep in mind, ma'am, beside the hazard and discomfort of his service, the awful effectiveness of it. Look at the Navy's last summary on what the subs have done.

Why, since the war started, these lone prowlers have sunk 1,072 enemy vessels, and of these 117 were warships. And when a sub sinks a warship, ma'am, ships like destroyers, which are designed sub-hunters, and destroyer escorts and cruisers and even larger craft, it is an act of superb valor, something like David's attack on Goliath.

The disposition of the Jap fleet and the routing of Jap shipping these days is such that American subs have had to venture right into the Jap's backyard to find respectable quarry. From these long expeditions, strictly on their own anti beyond the reach of help, many a submarine has gone unreported and has been presumed lost with all hands.

That's the risk of it, ma'am, and there's no glossing it over. But the easy willingness to take that risk is what makes these men heroes, heroes, we'd say, unexcelled.

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It is to be assumed the sailor who wrote a 75-foot letter to the girl friend does not have a sweetheart in every port, as the same was not mimeographed.

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Responding to a call from Biochemist, Newark (N. J.) lads are asking and getting three cents apiece for fleas. Who knows: Another great industry may be starting from scratch.

## Statesmen At Work

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

REP. MASON (Ill.) Mr. Speaker, the idea of "jobs for all" did not originate with President Roosevelt, although he stated in his economic bill of rights that every man had a right to a job. Neither is Senator Murray its creator, although, in his full employment bill, he proposes that the Government provide jobs if private industry fails to employ everybody. Not even Henry Wallace with his much-advertised prophetic vision can be credited with the full-employment idea although in a speech before the American Statistical Association, he said: "Jobs for all" should and will be the economic battle cry of all people of the world for the next 20 years.

Mr. Wallace, however, is the only one of our international "do-gooders" who is honest enough to tell us who originated the administration's plan for the expansion of Government economic activities. Mr. Wallace said:

Sir William Beveridge has just published a report on Full Employment in a Free Society, which I think transcends in importance his masterpiece on social security 2 years ago.

Wallace then goes on to show that every thought embodied in the President's economic bill of rights, in Senator Murray's full employment bill, and in Mr. Wallace's own Utopian plans for the future of America, are based upon the assertions and assumptions found in Sir William's new book. In this new book Mr. Beveridge is frank enough to call his scheme a revolution. His American imitators are trying to bring about the same revolution in this country. We should be prepared for it, remembering that Mr. Wallace has told us before, "What we are experiencing today is not a war but a revolution." And we must not forget that in his testimony before the Senate committee in connection with his appointment as Secretary of Commerce Mr. Wallace very plainly said he would use the $40,000,000,000 lending powers of the R. F. C. and the other Government lending agencies to carry out his world-wide Utopian plans.

# The Merry-Go-Round

By Drew Pearson

WASHINGTON

HARD-BOILED Leon Henderson did some tough talking to President Roosevelt when he arrived back from his economic survey of occupied Germany.

Henderson was sent by the White House to consult with Gen. Eisenhower regarding the economic set-up in Germany after the armistice. But, while the former OPA Administrator has kept very mum about it, he was quite critical in his verbal report to the President regarding negligence on the part of the Army, the State Department and the Anglo-American-Russian Commission in London regarding plans for running Germany.

Henderson had a long session at the White House and is now writing an equally long report.

Henderson told FDR that neither the U. S. military nor the State Department had done anything except the sloppiest sort of planning about running the difficult German civilian economy after the armistice. U. S. Ambassador John Winant in London, Henderson indicated, had been sitting on his haunches as a member of the tripartite commission supposed to look into this, but doing nothing.

Henderson reported that the plan for cutting Germany up into three different sections under the British, American and Russian armies simply would not work economically. He pointed out that the German railroads were set up to work as a unit, not in three different sections. Likewise with German industries. Henderson proposed, therefore that German civilian economy be run by a civilian commission representing the Allies which would have charge of the entire country. He also proposed that the military take orders from the civilian high commission.

**What the President will do about the Henderson report remains to be seen. When he suggested that Henderson go back to Germany, the hard-boiled ex-OPA Administrator refused. He said it was impossible to work under the present set-up. Instead he will go to China to make a study of price controls for Chiang Kai-Shek.**

### Hoover on Radio

In less than three months Chairman Paul Porter has won the respect of his entire staff at the Federal Communications Commission. The other day one commissioner remarked that "Porter has the virtues of Larry Fly (his predecessor), and none of his faults."

But although Porter is determined to keep politics out of the FCC, he can't quite forget his old role as publicity chairman for the Democratic campaign. In his first speech to broadcasters, last week, Porter begged off predicting what will happen to radio in the future.

"There is the stern voice of experience to prove just how far wrong can be those who essay to stake out the future," Porter said. He recalled that "one oracle" of radio said in 1922, "It is inconceivable that we should allow so great a possibility for service, for news, for entertainment, for education and for vital commercial purposes to be drowned in advertising chatter."

Later Porter quoted this same "oracle" as saying in 1924, "I believe the quickest way to kill broadcasting would be to use it for direct advertising."

Grinning slyly at the broadcasters, Porter said, "please don't misunderstand me ... I hope I do not subject myself to the charge that I have made an attack on advertising, free enterprise or private initiative because I have quoted Herbert Hoover."

### Truck-Tire Bottleneck

The Mead Committee is now probing the serious shortage of carbon black, the bottleneck in truck-tire production while WPB has approved 39 tire plants recently, the whole tire program is threatened by the shortage of carbon black. Although production went up 46 per cent after Justice Byrnes ordered the industry on a seven-day week last Fall, the failure of the carbon black supply has now forced the industry back to a six-day week.

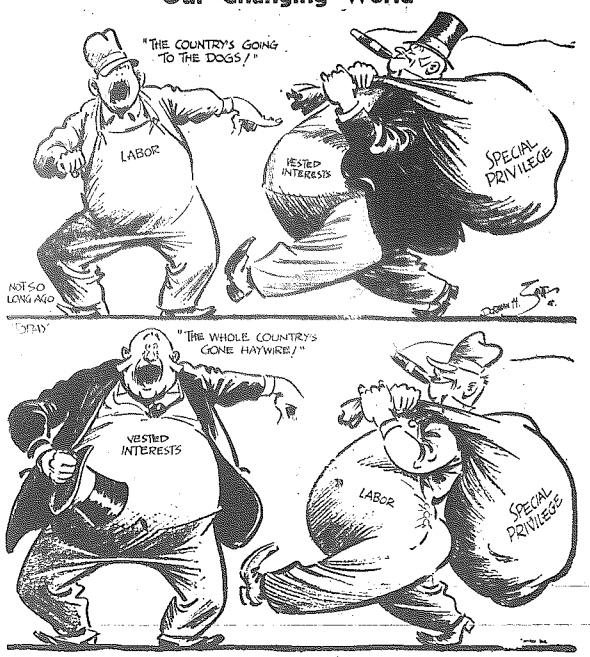
Inside reason for the carbon black shortage is that WPB tried to protect the established carbon black manufacturers by vetoing plans for construction of new plants. Instead, Vice-Chairman Harold Boeschenstein approved a plan to bring back into production facilities of the Southwest, long idle because of the high cost of materials in that area.

The industry happily asked OPA to raise their price ceilings because of the higher cost, but OPA decided carbon black profits were high enough and that no profit on the expanded operations should be allowed. The industry accepted this decision because they felt certain there would be no attempt by outsiders to go into the business.

But then they learned the way OPA figured costs, they found they were expected to produce in these renovated plants at an actual loss. Negotiations to get a better price on carbon black produced in these plants have dragged along for several months with the industry putting more energy into trying to convince OPA to raise the price than in putting out the carbon black.

So now the program is stalled, with one Government agency, WPB, determined to protect the industry from the competition of new facilities, and another Government agency, OPA, determined that profit control is more important than production.

## Our Changing World




## Undoing The Nazi Evil

By Marquis Childs

COLOGNE

IN yesterday's column, I tried to describe what the opening of a Gestapo prison after the Americans took Cologne meant to the freed victims of the Nazis. Before their release, an American military detachment had worked almost continuously for two and a half days, sorting out the sick from those who could walk, trying to get the records of each individual straightened out and, in general, untangling the snarl left behind by the fleeing Germans.

The way in which the job was done made one feel confident of our capacity and proud of our humaneness. Capt. J. W. Moreland of San Bernardino, Calif., was the medical officer in charge. He watched as the last of the prisoners filed out of the grim red brick building, and his voice, as he spoke, was not quite steady.

For three days, with almost no sleep, he had seen the results of unspeakable Gestapo cruelties. Working with him were Capt. James G. Vannoot of Richmond, Va., and Cpl. Abraham J. Levy of Los Angeles.

Typhus had begun to spread in the prison, and one of the first duties of the detachment was to try to check it. Fortunately, they had an ample supply of DDT powder, one of the war's great constructive discoveries, which kills insects almost instantly and yet does no harm to humans. As they sprayed the prisoners with the white, odorless powder, they said you could hear lice falling onto the papers spread on the floor. That may have been a slight exaggeration, but only slight.

The Americans who cleaned out the prison found ships with knotted thongs that had been used to beat prisoners. They found handcuffs fastened to a wall from which victims had been suspended. On a straw mattress in one cell, they found the imprints of a body—head, torso, arms and legs—in blood. Apparently, this was where some man or woman had died after a beating.

At Gestapo headquarters in the heart of Cologne, not far from the cathedral, they found other instruments of torture and the remains of a gallows where hangings took place. When I visited this building four days after the occupation, the bodies of some prisoners were still in the cells, where they had been trapped in debris during the bombing and shelling of the city.

While one American detachment was cleaning out the prison, another was preparing a camp on the outskirts of Cologne for "displaced persons," which is the term applied to all Allied citizens inside Germany. The only available place was a concentration camp, around which were barracks where slave laborers had been housed.

Here, on the fifth day after the occupation, the Americans were segregating various nationalities. Among 550 persons already in the camp, there were nine different nationalities. This is a small example of the tremendous job of unscrambling which must be done as a result of the deliberate Nazi policy of confusing nationalities within the Reich.

## Quote, Unquote

WAR production for men at the front must be increased. There have been too many smoke-screens designed solely to duck the blame for failure.
—Assistant Navy Secretary H. Struve Hensel.

* * *

The enemy is anxious to shorten the war. He may launch without delay a reckless, direct and violent attack against the mainland in the near future. The entire nation must be fully prepared for such an eventuality.
—Jap Premier Gen. Kuniaki Koiso.

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Even if we temporarily lose control over events we still have a chance of regaining it. But we shall only have that chance, even in hopeless situations, if we continue to bear arms.
—Goebbels.

* * *

This is no smack-bang campaign. It is a matter of slowly crowding them out of their holes one by one and killing them one by one. The Japanese have made a skillful defense. It ought to be skillful. They have owned it ever since it was an island.
—Fifth Marine Corps Maj. Gen. Harry Schmidt, at Iwo.

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Common sense should warn us that obviously all states cannot remain supreme in all they choose to do unless we are willing to accept the cynical view that might makes right.
—Vice-President Harry S. Truman.

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How can you expect to win a war when you have no gasoline and no horses? It will all be over within four months—five months at the latest.
—German Lt. Gen. Graf von Rothkirk, captured near Coblenz.

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War anywhere in the world today threatens war throughout the world. Peace anywhere in the world today requires a whole world at peace.
—Secretary of State Edward R. Stettinius Jr.

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Eight to ten years after V-J Day it is quite possible that 400,000 workers will be supported directly or indirectly by civil aviation.—Commerce Secretary Henry A. Wallace.

## SIDE GLANCES By Galbraith

"It's not so strange for her to be crazy about a swoon-crooner—remember that opera soprano I rescued you from who now weighs 200 pounds?"

## First Free Election

THE people of Finland went to the polls last week in the first really free election of any importance held in Europe since Hitler precipitated World War II in 1939. The polls closed on Sunday evening, but the full returns were not known until Tuesday because of abnormal conditions prevailing.

The Finnish election may be regarded as evidence, pro or con, of the good faith of the United Nations in allowing full self-government in Europe after the war. At the Crimean Conference the Big Three promised to assist former Axis states to solve their problems by "democratic means." Also, the Big Three would help the liberated peoples to form interim governments pledged to hold "free elections" as soon as possible, and would "facilitate where necessary" the holding of such elections. But in the "free and unfettered elections" guaranteed Poland, only "democratic and anti-Nazi parties" were to be allowed to take part.

Finland is still under the military occupation of the Soviet Union, but reports from Helsinki indicate that the Russians kept their hands off the actual balloting in last week's election. At the same time, Moscow is said to have warned that the results of the election would show whether the Finns had really broken with their anti-Soviet past. And every Finn who went to the polls knew that the only hope for his country in the years immediately ahead lay in co-operation with the Soviet Union. Thus there was no surprise when the Social Democrats won—and the Communistic Democratic Peoples Union was a close second.

Under these circumstances the vote cast in Finland for conservative parties was naturally small. In every election since World War I, Finland has given a plurality, although not a majority, to its Socialists (Social Democrats), and a Socialist Government, supported by some of the minor parties, was in control in 1925-27.

The Finnish Socialists have always dissociated themselves from Moscow, and the Finnish Communists had their own party, which at times found itself outlawed. (The Finnish Fascists also were outlawed from time to time prior to 1939.) The elections to the 200 seats in the Finnish Diet in 1939 resulted as follows:—Social Democrats, 85; Agrarians, 56; six other parties, 59. The election of 1936 had resulted as follows:—Social Democrats, 83; Agrarians, 53; six other parties, 64.

Under these circumstances a victory in the current election for the Finnish Socialists failed to indicate the swing to the Left in postwar Europe which is being generally predicted. The election was contested by a "Popular Front," composed of Communists, radical Socialists, and left-wing liberals. It undoubtedly cut deeply into the Socialist vote, but its victory would not have necessarily represented a Communist victory.

The Finns have long been election-minded. Even in the era of 1905-1917, when the Tsarist Government in St. Petersburg often nullified by decree the result of Finnish elections, the Finns always went to the polls in large numbers. In 1932 they repealed, by better than a 2 to 1 vote in a popular referendum, the Prohibition law enacted in 1918. The voting age is 24.

The next elections to be held in Europe will be in Bulgaria. There, from all present indications, only pro-Communist parties will be given places on the ballots. It will be recalled that the British Government, in intervening by force several months ago in Greece, gave as reason its determination that the elections scheduled in that country should be really free, and not be controlled by a minority group by force. Last week American Serbs sent the White House a petition for a free election in Yugoslavia in the near future, and Prime Minister Churchill announced that the long-postponed general election in Great Britain would be held soon after the war in Europe ended—Editorial Research Report.

## Sweet Justice

By Samuel Grafton

NEW YORK

SENATOR VANDENBERG is taking Justice with him to San Francisco as a sort of secretary. He says he will be guided by Justice in all he does. The Senator has been talking a great deal lately about the sweet, grave girl, with the bandage over her eyes, and the scales in her hand. He has long conversations with her, and then he tells us, in speeches and statements, what she has said.

So far they seem to have talked mostly about the Polish border. Doesn't any other subject come up in the Senator's talks with this distinguished female? It has always been my impression that Justice was a well-rounded sort of girl, that she could talk fluently on a number of themes, Shakespeare and the musical glasses, the hungry children of the world, and how hard it is to be out of a job. It is only since the Senator has taken over as Justice's press representative, so to speak, that the young lady seems to have narrowed her range, and to have no interest left in the world beyond Wilno and Lwow.

It is rather strange to think of Justice as having a one-track mind.

The Senator has promised faithfully to follow Justice wherever she goes, and he has made touching public protestations of his loyalty to her. "Whither thou goest, I will go," he has said. Is he going to keep that pledge when Justice gets tired of squatting on the Polish border, and begins to look around? "You know," she may say to him during one of the duller sessions at San Francisco, "I think it's time we endorsed Bretton Woods, Van, old fruit." "I beg your pardon?" the Senator may say. "Well, there's more to life than the Polish frontier," she may whisper. "Hmmm," the Senator may answer. "You said you would do what I wanted," she is likely to reply, beginning to sniffle a bit, in the immemorial fashion of the disappointed lady. The Senator can hardly tell Justice to pack up her things and go home. After all, he did say she was the biggest thing in his life.

Anyone who takes Justice by the arm may find himself in for a longer walk than he intended. I can see her, during one of these strolls, steering the Senator over to look at the starving children of France, and, with womanly gentleness, offering the tender suggestion that America at once send some of its relative plenty abroad, to ease the great hunger. "It's not exactly the problem I'm working on," the Senator will say. "Oh, you!" she will answer. "Here I slave over a hot stove all day, and expect you to come home and tell me interesting things, and all you do is talk about Lwow, Lwow, Lwow." It will do the Senator no good to protest that he can't take care of everything. "Justice wants to feed those children," she will answer, speaking about herself in the third person, with charming childlike directness. "I want you to go right into the Senate tomorrow and tell them that." The Senator may try to protest that he was elected to do a certain job, and that he has to stick to it. In which case the answer may be: "Elected to save Lwow, hey?", and, of course, there is nothing quite so unpleasant as a sarcastic woman.

Justice is one of those girls who think of everything. The afternoon must arrive when she will bring up a matter which Senator Vandenberg has probably overlooked. "You know," she will remark to the Senator, "Justice doesn't think you're altogether serving her, when you puff up one question of detail, the Polish border, to the point where you may hurt the peace by upsetting an agreement among Mr. Roosevelt, and Mr. Churchill and Mr. Stalin." "Those three men?" you can hear the Senator saying, "I didn't even know you knew them."

"Know them?" she will say. "In a way, I think I helped introduce them to each other. That was some time before I met you, dear."