EDITORIAL PAGE
THE CHARLOTTE NEWS

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MONDAY, JULY 2, 1945

Somebody's Wrong

So this automobile comes bustin' out of a side street or a side road, hittin' up a pretty good clip and weavin' all over the road, the guy at the wheel lookin' kind of glassy-eyed. He weaves over toward the sidewalk where a bunch of kids are playing, but just in time he weaves back over to the middle of the street, barely missing a car coming the other way.

"That fellow's drunk as a goat," you say. "The cops ought to catch him and put him all the way under the jail."

The cops'll catch him, mister, chances are. But the chances are that he won't even be put in the jail, much less under it, except for the length of time it takes him to arrange a bond. If it's in Mecklenburg County that he is driving drunk, and if it's in Mecklenburg Superior Court that his case is finally off every tried, the overwhelming odds are that he won't even lose his driving license.

Last week in Mecklenburg Superior Court Solicitor Carpenter, prodded by a report of the Grand Jury which cited him for laying off of drunken driving cases, thought it wise to mend his ways for a spell. He began calling up drunken driving cases. But simultaneously he began acquiescing in the submission of pleas of guilty to the lesser charge of reckless driving, which does not make loss of driving license mandatory. The jury likewise brought in reckless driving verdicts in some of the few cases which went to the jury. Other defendants it acquitted.

Now, there are degrees and degrees of drunkenness, and these men in court, wholly sober and perhaps slightly abject about the whole proceedings, undoubtedly did not look like criminals. Even so, it simply isn't arguable that either the cops (City, County and State Highway) are guilty of making capricious arrests for drunken driving, else the court is guilty of brushing aside the testimony of the arresting officers and treating the offense, which is a serious one, with unbecoming lightness. The little reader may guess which is the more nearly true.

Relief Measure

Our mental hospitals are overcrowded because of the general low level of mental health in North Carolina, because of our stubborn refusal to accept a broad program of sterilization—and, because the hospital wards are jammed with senile patients who don't belong there.

The very old in the state were once cared for reasonably well by county homes, but the county home is passing (there are only ten or eleven left). In recent years hundreds of old people have been sent to the hospitals, where they were taken in but not welcomed. The best professional opinion is that senile patients in general do not belong in the hospitals. And in this time, when there is a long waiting list of the mentally ill and wards are overflowing, seniles have become an acute problem.

The acquisition of Camp Sutton for the use of seniles will immediately better the plight of all inmates of our hospitals. At Morganton and Raleigh there are several hundred of them, occupying rooms badly needed for other patients. A great many of these old people need nothing more than custodial care and they get nothing more in the hospitals now. This care can be amply provided at Camp Sutton, and there are facilities there for 1,000 of them. When they are moved a good deal of the burden will be lifted at Morganton and Goldboro, the waiting lists will be cut down, and better care will become possible.

This acquisition of Camp Sutton is an emergency measure which may grow into a permanent part of our hospitals program. The camp will be held by lease, but negotiations are underway for purchase of the large tract and its buildings. Quick action to solve this one of the hospitals' problems is testimony to the ability of Governor Cherry's new Board of Control, and to Chapel Hill's John Umstead in particular. Our senile patients have been a major problem for some time, but it is only now that we have taken steps to care for them.

Without Guns

During the war Charlotte has seen several cases of shooting involving taxicab drivers. In March, drivers killed two men, one in a fist fight, one with a pistol. One of these drivers had a criminal record going back for eleven years, and that record was known to the Police Department. It happens that the police, having developed the theory that a man convicted of a felony was a good risk if his record had been clean for two years, was certifying licenses to drivers who had sinned, and gone straight. In general, the system worked, and there was little trouble. It didn't work in March.

Last week, when the Grand Jury handed down its recommendations, the barrage against Solicitor John Carpenter's Superior Court attracted public attention, so that few people noticed other suggestions. One of these was that City Council forbid cab drivers to carry pistols. That simple, direct approach struck at the root of the trouble. The jurymen were not concerned with the Police Department policy on drivers and their criminal records; they thought it might help to disarm all drivers. It would.

The life of the hack driver, we suppose, is not overly pleasant, and is often dangerous. He must four the city and its environs by night, come into all sections, carrying all kinds of patrons, and in all degrees of sobriety. We suppose they are quite in earnest when they insist that they must be armed for self-defense. Some of the shooting cases have indicated that the drivers involved were only defending themselves.

But by and large, we'd think, trouble would be avoided and violence reduced, if cab drivers were commanded to leave their shooting irons at home when they went on duty. We hope City Council will look thoughtfully upon the Grand Jury's suggestion.

Little Empire

The cession of Ruthenia to Russia by Czechoslovakia is not an echo from Munich. The Czechs, so the stories say, are insistent that there was no controversy during negotiations. They gave up this mountainous territory of 4,671 square miles with a smile. There are no protests to be heard, as there were in September of '38 when Hitler carved off 10,000 square miles, Poland took 400 square miles, and Hungary took almost 5,000. In those times, the little republic was the victim of cannibalism, committed with the consent of Britain and France. Russia dissented, and growled about it.

This Ruthenia, *alias* the Carpatho-Ukraine, *alias* Sub-Carpathian Russia, is a little appendix dangling between Poland and Hungary, pointed toward Rumania. It contains some 725,000 souls, and most of them presumably welcome the opportunity to join the Ukraine Soviet Republic. We don't know, and can't know. There is no free circulation of news from Eastern Europe, and there was not even a report of a plebiscite. There is only the claim by Czech officials that most Republicans had asked to be allowed to join Russia after the last war, in the founding days of the Czech republic.

There will be suspicions, we suppose, that Russia is merely grabbing more territory, to solidify her position above the Balkans, to round out her holdings in Poland. There may be charges that she is actually guilty of aggression of the Munich type. But not one of the signs is there. If the Russians are ruthlessly grabbing they are doing it with consummate skill. And further, if someone is to administer peace in that troubled area, and Ruthenia is one of the keys to peace, where is there a candidate other than Russia?

Truman looks better by the hour. The President is, it seems, the level-headed type that has all the cleaning and decorating done before he moves in.

Statesmen At Work

(Serious facetious and comic excerpts from the Congressional Record)

SEN. LANGER (N. D.) on reciprocal trade agreements:

Mr. President, when the Congress signed over most of its powers to President Roosevelt we were told that it was being done by men engaged in a total football war. The common people—those who do the fighting and dying—objected, but we gave to the President the power to send our boys to every corner of the globe. If the reports of the Senators who just returned from Europe are to be believed, the Congress made a sorry mistake in divesting itself of its power, and turning it over to one man.

Now again we are asked to divest ourself of power and this time turn it over to President Truman. I like the President, and what I say is not to be construed in any sense as derogatory to him.

But, President Truman will has the same Department of State as had President Roosevelt. Stettinius, of the House of Morgan, former chairman of United States Steel, financial czar extraordinary, still rules. On his right hand we have Nelson Rockefeller, who is universally hated by the common people all over Mexico and South America. On his left hand we have Clayton, the greatest cotton gambler in the world, whose interests are not those United States citizens.

SEN. BUCK (D. Del.) on the same:

Mr. President, when the Congress signed over most of its powers to President Roosevelt we were told that it was being done by men engaged in a total football war. The common people—those who do the fighting and dying—objected, but we gave to the President the power to send our boys to every corner of the globe. If the reports of the Senators who just returned from Europe are to be believed, the Congress made a sorry mistake in divesting itself of its power, and turning it over to one man.

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SEN. BARKLEY (D. Ky.) on the same:

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The Merry-Go-Round

By Drew Pearson

WASHINGTON

AMONG the most important Nazi files in Europe today are those of I. G. Farbenindustrie, the giant German cartel which produced synthetic gasoline, synthetic rubber, plus other secret war materials, and which cooperated with various American firms, such as Standard Oil of New Jersey and the Aluminum Corporation of America, before Pearl Harbor.

These files may reveal secret German patents which would help American industry; also reveal the extent to which certain American firms collaborated; also prove the war guilt of German industrial leaders.

However, here is the inside story of what is happening to these files. They were first stored by the U. S. Army in a German warehouse in Frankfurt. Then the Army needed space, and moved a large group of displaced persons—Russians, Poles, French—into the warehouse. The DPs immediately began tearing open the files to see if there was anything valuable in them.

Then the U. S. Army needed even more space, and moved the files outside behind the warehouse. There they kicked around in the wind and rain.

Finally someone high in the Army realized the importance of the I. G. Farben files and moved them back into the warehouse. Whether it is too late to make real use of them remains to be seen. Tons and tons of paper are scattered in every direction. Searching through them is like hunting a needle in a haystack.

Russia Could Use Veto

Meanwhile further talks have been going on in Ankara, where the Russians also demand that the Turks return two pieces of territory, Kars and Ardahan, in order to "do something for the Armenian people." These two areas, located next to Armenia, were once Russian, but the Soviet voluntarily gave them to Turkey in 1921.

The Turkish Foreign Minister begged off from making any reply to the Soviet Ambassador, and immediately rushed to call in the British Ambassador for advice.

Meanwhile, Russian troops are concentrating in Georgia and Armenia just opposite Kars and Ardahan, the two areas Russia wants back. Also increased Russian forces have been seen in Thrace, the border of European Turkey. Should Russia take over these areas, and should Turkey then invoke the United Nations Charter to prevent war, Russia could use its much-debated power of veto to block action by the United Nations.

Note—It was to stop Russia from taking the Dardanelles that the British and French came into the Crimean War on Turkey's side against Russia in 1854. Should there be war between Turkey and Russia today, the Arab states undoubtedly would come in on the side of Turkey, putting the British, with strong Arab ties, in a most difficult position.

Sick Man of Europe

There have been two important back-stage developments in the dynamite-laden row between Turkey and Russia, a row which may test out the United Nations ability to prevent war almost before the ink is dry on the charter.

Development No. 1: Ed Stettinius, shortly before resigning as Secretary of State, sent a strong note to the Russians in which the Russians pulled in their horns somewhat—though they are still sticking a long way out.

According to uncensored diplomatic dispatches, Molotov told the Turkish Ambassador during this session that Russia would require bases in the Dardenelles "only in case of war, not in peace." Previously, the Russians had demanded the right to take over this vital strip of waterway over which armies have fought for years and which the Czars of Russia have coveted ever since there was a Russia.

Molotov also said that Russia wished to talk to Turkey about various questions concerning the Balkan Straits. This was considered an indirect way of saying that Russia wants European Turkey ceded to Bulgaria.

However, Molotov added that if the above propositions were agreed to, Russia would be glad to sign a treaty of alliance with Turkey, which would go further than a treaty of friendship.

These ideas, though more conciliatory than previous Russian proposals, got nowhere with the Turkish Ambassador. He replied that negotiations in Moscow were ended. Anything further to be said, he told Molotov, must be said in Ankara.

Exit Miss Perkins

Next to Secretary of the Interior Ickes, the Roosevelt Cabinet member who has held office longest stepped out of the Cabinet this week-end. Several days before she stepped out, Miss Perkins called up her friend Attorney General Biddle, who left the Cabinet simultaneously.

"How do you feel?" she asked.

"Fine," replied Biddle.

"Well," said the lady who has been Secretary of Labor for twelve long and tumultous years, "let's go out and celebrate."

This column has sometimes been critical of Miss Perkins during her long tenure of office. But as we look back over the years, something should be said to balance the criticism. In the first place, no period in the entire history of the nation has been more difficult from the point of view of labor. Labor was in the throes of growing pains. It was an era which Perkins inherited, not one which she personally brought about.

And while there may be cause to debate the wisdom of appointing a woman to such a difficult post during such a difficult era, yet when we look back on Miss Perkins' sterile and hidebound predecessors, the William Nickles Doaks and the puddler Jim Davises of yesteryear, it must be admitted that the lady shone in comparison.

Note: Like some other members of the Cabinet, Miss Perkins retires almost penniless. She has exhausted her private savings and as Jim Farley so often said, it is almost impossible to live on a Cabinet salary. Four years ago, Miss Perkins had a chance to become president of a New England college for women, but FDR asked her to remain on.

Situation Viewed With Limited Optimism

Three Ways To Do It

By Samuel Grafton

NEW YORK

MR. DREW MIDDLETON, of the New York Times, describes the British as running their zone in Germany with very few men, quietly, soberly, efficiently, and without much boorish. One ships.

to play with the thought that the national characteristics of the three major occupying powers, American, British, Russian, are showing up in the German territories under their respective control. There is some ground for this belief. Mr. Middleton finds that the British are rather bored by the question of which Germans are Nazis and which are not. They are all Germans, after all, and they don't speak English anyway; the British manage to live among them with a kind of complacent indifference, that is at once casual and tough, and stems perhaps from long British experience in handling foreign populations.

The British are not afraid of foreigners; they use large numbers of Germans in the lower levels of local government, with here and there a few British officers spotted about. One doesn't see many British in the British zone just as one doesn't see many British in India.

The American approach seems somewhat more flurried. We make a large to-do about which Germans are Nazis, and American counter-intelligence officers are all over the place, but we do not seem to be too good at drawing these distinctions. Americans generally do not believe that a man's politics are a very important part of him; we do not share the continental's terrible concern about the basic convictions of the men among whom he happens to be thrown, and we tend to make friends quickly, on an individual basis. But we know that there is a political problem in Germany, so we little use of Germans and when we do use them we supervise the hell out of them.

The British, it might be said, treat the Germans casually, as a subject native population, we treat them gingerly, as fantastic strangers. We show a characteristic American hope of progress, we bubble more than the British do with plans for education, etc.; but we are tentative, and we would be happy if in some way we could reduce the German problem to a formula, and boil it through like a potato.

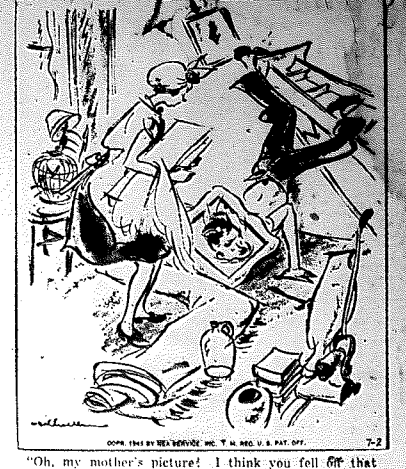
The Russians have done the most organizing, the quickest; but then, the Soviet system itself came to life in a Russia which had been disorganized by both foreign and civil war, and the Soviets long ago learned a technique of local organization, on a village level, crude but effective, and without much paper work.

The Russians aren't paying a great deal of attention to the previous political beliefs of the Germans under their control; they are using a Soviet-revolutionary technique of setting up specific tasks, on a local basis, and letting men prove themselves loyal or be weeded out in the doing of them. They are building up a vested German interest in favor of their occupation faster than the British or Americans are doing, and they will probably have some sort of life going on a low but functioning level, before the other two.

As to whether there will eventually be three Germanys, each a kind of outpost of the occupying power, a crumpet Germany, a hot-dog Germany and a caviar Germany, it is as yet too early to say. The returns aren't all in.

In regard to the American zone, it seems to me that we are not yet being characteristic of ourselves, that we ought to relax a bit, allow political activity, and be more inclined to let nature take its course; more ready to permit those processes of organic development which defy formula, and cannot be described in Army manuals. We are proceeding somewhat as if the German people

SIDE GLANCES By Galbraith



"Oh, my mother's picture! I think you fell off that ladder on purpose!"

The Shakeup

By Marquis Childs

WASHINGTON

WITH the resignation of Secretary of State Edward R. Stettinius Jr., the way is cleared for a thorough reorganization of the State Department. That reorganization has long been called for.

Happily, Stettinius' successor will be James F. Byrnes. Byrnes' ability is in getting along with people, in making the kind of constructive compromises essential in any large endeavor.

That was the capacity he demonstrated in the Senate and, later, in the White House as assistant President He is, in the broadest sense of the word, a diplomat. Byrnes is at his best when he sits down around a table with representatives of contending forces that must be brought into line.

As assistant President, he did not show conspicuous talents in the field of administration. He had little experience in directing a complicated undertaking and he did not take well to that phase of public service.

For this reason it is all the more important, if the State Department reorganization is to be thorough, to name a new Undersecretary with administrative capacity and courage. While the Undersecretary carries out the reorganization, Byrnes would be free to direct American foreign policy on the highest level. That will be his primary job, and he should be free to devote all his time to it.

During the long tenure of Cordell Hull, internal rivalries disturbed the department. But there were few changes. Younger and more vigorous career men in many instances found the tone and the tempo of the department intolerable, and the resigned.

Since Hull's resignation there have been many changes and constant talk of reorganization. This has had a demoralizing effect on the permanent officers of the State Department — the technicians who actually do the work.

Among these technicians are many who are able. Years of training and experience have fitted them for the specialized jobs they do. Drafting a charter, such as that of San Francisco, is, for example, a highly technical business. Running such a conference requires a large staff of technicians. One of the hardest working men at San Francisco was Alger Hiss, a permanent officer of the department who served as Secretary General of the United Nations meeting.

These men are naturally resentful when important diplomatic posts go as political rewards to those whose chief qualification is that they have contributed generously to party funds. They are suspicious now that the coming reorganization may mean more ambassadorships for political fat cats.

It is sometimes a gain, it seems to me, to take outsiders for important ambassadorial posts. We have had in our foreign service too few officers who have grown in understanding and responsibility to the kind of maturity that is called for in the five or six top diplomatic posts.

That is one of the chief faults of the present system. It is one of the reasons a complete overhaul is urgently needed.

We need far more trained technicians than we have today. We need a system that will make it possible to advance men with exceptional ability. They should not be held back by the deadening inertia of the present workings of seniority.

The British Foreign Office has a plan ready to go into effect. It is based on a thorough study made by a royal commission.

"The new scheme of recruitment and training," Anthony Eden reported, "will consist of a preliminary competitive entrance test designed so that it can be taken without special study, followed by a period of training abroad at the expense of the state. At the end of this studentship period candidates will be examined in their special subjects and, if they qualify, will become members of the Foreign Service. They will then undergo a year's training in this country, part of which will be spent in the Foreign Office and part in getting a grounding in economic, commercial and social questions."

That sounds like a good beginning. It will mean opening the way for young men of ability outside the charmed circle of a few schools and a few families. We might take that example as a starting point in getting our own department of peace on an effective basis.

Goodbye, Germany

By Dorothy Thompson

FRANKFURT AM MAIN.

WHOEVER has been over as much of Germany as I have in the last five weeks, covering part of Hesse and Württemberg and a very large part of Bavaria with adjoining Austria, will agree with Gen. George S. Devers that Germany is knocked out as a great power. Forever. The cannot come back in 50 years, she can never come back at all. The world will not stand still in this time. The nations that defeated her in particular the United States and the Soviet Union will not decline in strength and since all the powers are relative Germany never will be able to recapture anything approximating her position held either in 1914 or 1939.

No country can be a world power without main power industrial development of its great natural resources or free access to them, intellectual leadership, and a favored geographic space situation.

All five of these are gone for Germany. Demographically she has been declining like all the west for generations, except for a brief artificial spurt under Hitler. Her industrial population in this war though not yet even approximate are staggering and include not only those who were dead or totally incapacitated but the great losses of children in bombings. It is possible she has lost through production years the bulk of her prisoners in Russia. No German family has heard from them since January and it is believed they

on the rich man power and natural resources of eastern and southeastern Europe for they are in the Russian defense system. Subsistence or sub-subsistence of the standard of living and diminishing opportunities, which is Germany's inescapable fate, will further decrease the ratio of births over deaths.

The entire urban civilization is demolished. There is not a city of more than 50,000 or 60,000 intact and most of these will can be razed and rebuilt from scratch if at all. Their falls have carried with them factories, communications, universities, laboratories, shops, and museums. No words can describe the terrible spectacle of these crushed, burnt-out abandoned crags and cliffs of broken mortar.

The generation from which intellectual leadership might come is decimated. Youth has been rendered stupid by Nazi training. The properties essential for higher education have been destroyed. The last honest and valiant minds were decapitated by Hitler's running amok after July 20th. The European victors have priority for years on Germany's natural resources.

Finally Germany's geographical space situation is henceforth impossible for a war of her own mitigation. She no longer is surrounded on the east by weak independent states which could be eliminated one by one. She could never fight a war against the west without Russia and with Russia she would be a mere instrument and battleground. In a war against Russia she would be the first country occupied. Germany, therefore, is finished as a menace.

But what the ultimate historic consequences of the total elimination of Europe's once most power-