EDITORIAL PAGE

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Take It Away

The trouble lies, of course, in that same old difference between what the law says is all wrong and the people say is all right, or not so bad, anyhow. Most people consider that if they choose to play a nickle in the butter 'n' eggs, or take a flyer for a quarter's worth, it's their business. But the law disagrees, and minions of the law, who themselves probably don't have any scruples against matching for nickles, have to enforce the law.

But look at the enforcement. It consists, invariably, of arresting the lowliest pawns in the game—the runners, usually Negroes, who go around taking bets (many of them as low as a penny or two daily) on a commission of ten per cent, plus an equal cut of their customers' winnings, if any. When the runners are arrested, bond is promptly arranged for their release. When they appear in court they are defended by a lawyer, always the same one, who evidently is retained by the syndicate. In the underworld vocabulary he would be known as a "mouthpiece".

When the runners are convicted, punishment is usually a fine which the mouthpiece pays, off on the spot. In the latest case Superior Court Judge Hamilton, after trying to worm out of two Negroes the name of their employer or any higher-ups in the syndicate, handed out six-month jail sentences. A sustained policy of jail sentences might break up the butter 'n' eggs, but with the State's system of rotating judges and with an indifferent resident Solicitor, a sustained policy of any kind is improbable. Judge Hamilton conceded as much when, the next day, he suspended the sentences.

Why don't they break up the racket by catching the big shots? We dunno. Looks as if it might not be too difficult a job for a Police Department of more than 100 men, with a Detective Division that rates high in unraveling mysteries. On the other hand, the Police Department has plenty of crime to keep it busy, real crime, disorder and violence. The butter 'n' eggs is well behaved and innocuous. You don't have to play it.

All the same, it's hardly a boost for the prestige of the courts and the cops to have a law on the books which is violated with impunity for the syndicate and with no noticeable pangs of conscience on the part of the participating populace. One thing is certain: our criminal code is certainly tighter than our enforcement of it.

Here and there, old-fashioned types stand out in the modern scene. One such has just done Niagara rapids in a barrel. Another in Liverpool (O.) is an accused horse thief. In Washington a Senator spoke lately for economy.

The Small Voice

Australia's Foreign Minister, Herbert Evatt, was one of the most courageous and outspoken men at San Francisco when the United Nations Charter was aborning. He lashed out vigorously at what he deemed to be power politics practiced by the Big Three, and stood on the side of the smaller nations. In print, his points made a good deal of sense. He sounded like an idealist who knew the score, if such things can be.

So he wasn't talking out of school when he got back home and hopped to the attack on the Potsdam ultimatum to Japan. He may have sounded the carping critic, complaining that Australia had had no voice in framing the ultimatum. But he surely was on solid ground when he pointed out that as a neighbor to Japan Australia was deeply concerned with the making of the new peace.

He thought he saw the peace terms concealed behind the ultimatum, too, and charged that the Big Three were going to deal more leniently with Japan than they had with Germany. He said that "the slightest sign of tenderness to Japanese imperialism is entirely misplaced," and pointed back to the gruesome record of barbarities practiced by the Japs since 1941.

There's no end to the argument as to which nations should be "party principals" to the peace with Japan and if the United Nations are to look to the future with any confidence, perhaps they must trust the Big Three to bring the Pacific war to a satisfactory conclusion and write a just peace.

But we suspect that Mr. Evatt speaks for a host of the smaller United Nations here, in declaring that all of them have a common interest in the settlement with Japan. Nothing less than complete destruction of Jap imperialism will satisfy Australia, and if Mr. Evatt's worst suspicions are confirmed when peace is written, that independent segment of the British Commonwealth stands to lose more than either of the nations conducting the session at Potsdam.

The Air Is Ours

Today, every American should know, is Air Force Day, the 36th anniversary of the founding of what has become the AAF. On his own initiative he will recall that since Dec. 7, 1941, every day has been Air Force Day. Somewhere the "wild blue yonder" boys were up and at 'em.

The Army Air Force as we know it today is, in age, a mere babe. In 1938 U. S. air might amounted at 1,600 planes, 1,300 officers and 18,000 men. After the attack on Pearl Harbor the Army had 176 combat planes in the whole Hawaiian and Philippine theaters. Its total strength today is a military secret, but it is safe to guess that, combining Army and Navy, it is twice that of any other two nations together, and perhaps half as much again. And fighting strength is only a part of the picture.

The Army Transport Command has over 85,000 officers and men. The number of its planes is, again, a military secret; but it recently had 600 transports in service on the mission of ferrying troops from Europe, not to mention the planes it had flying over the Pacific and in all parts of the world. On a 72-day period recently the Air Force flew 175,370 soldiers home, many of them the wounded. Landing fields built by AAF engineers almost girdle the globe.

What the United States has wrought in the short space of four years is a testimonial not alone to its industrial might but to the bold perspective of President Roosevelt, who set the goal. And what this enormous force has done is a tribute to every man in it, from Hap Arnold down to the grease-monkey under the cowling.

In Two Wars

Among the assortment of finds in Berlin was one which will be of immense interest to Allied military staffs and historians as well. In the home of a General Hermann Reinecke, described as propaganda chief for the German army, the British came across a record of casualties from the start of the war until November 30, 1944. The British consider the figures reliable.

Germany at that time was in about the same fix as in November 1918; she was licked and knew it. But whereas in 1918 her General Staff determined to live to fight again another day, her masters in 1944 chose to make any sacrifice, no matter how fearful, the longer to hold onto their own necks. Between November 30, 1944 and May 10, 1945, German losses undoubtedly were enormous.

But for the five years and three months prior to the deluge, Reinecke's figures showed that German military casualties (including Austrian) were below those of Germany and Austria-Hungary for the full four years and three (and a half) months of World War I. In killed and died of wounds: War I, 2,973,700; War II, 1,911,300. In missing and prisoners: War I, 3,352,000; War II, 2,153,138 including some several hundred thousand wounded and discharged men not segregated in the figures.

Another interesting disclosure of the records is the extent to which the Russian front accounted for the bulk of Nazi casualties. Of the 1,911,300 listed as killed up until November 30, 1,419,000 were killed by the Russians. Indeed, even after the Western front became active, its major effect on the casualty figures was in the category of missing or captured rather than killed. From D-Day until the end of November, Western front casualties were 54,000 killed, 335,000 missing or captured.

One by one the offbrands of cigarettes return to the obscurity whence they came, unmourned by any except the dried-leaved interests who became wealthy therefrom.

A tribe of the upper Amazon knows nothing of money or any number above 30. It would seem the ideal vacation spot if the resigned Morgenthau wants to get away from it all.

The Merry-Go-Round

By Drew Pearson

WASHINGTON

THIS column has sometimes reported the weird activities of the dilettante detectives from Wall Street who warm chairs in General Bill Donovan's Office of Strategic Service (oh so secret). In contrast we have praised the heroic work of young OSS officers who risked their lives abroad. Here is one example of OSS bravery which now can be revealed.

Shortly before the Nazis invaded Hungary more than a year ago, a peace feeler reached the AMFORA from the Hungarian general staff. It was evident that certain Hungarian Army leaders wanted to make a deal with the Allies rather than be engulfed by the Nazis.

So three American OSS officers parachuted into Hungary to talk peace. They were: Col. Fortmond Duke, former advertising manager of Time Magazine, 50 years old, and who never before had made a parachute jump; Maj. Albert Suarez, of Peoria, Ill., and Lt. Guy Nunn of Los Angeles.

They contacted the Hungarian general staff, but it was too late. The Nazis were just outside Budapest; two days later they took over the city.

The three OSS men were taken prisoner, shipped to the harshest of Gestapo prisons and "sweated" in order to get them to talk. However, they didn't break under the ordeal, but they were taken from prison to prison, kept in solitary confinement. Once, as an International Red Cross inspector was passing, they managed to attract his attention.

He ordered them taken out of solitary and they were then placed in the same prison with Winston Churchill's nephew and General Bor, the Polish leader.

Wallace's Housecleaning

Former Vice-President Henry Wallace has been keeping mighty quiet since he took over Jesse Jones's job as Secretary of Commerce last March. Many people wondered whether Wallace would wield a swift broom and housecleaan the dusty, sleepy Commerce agency.

Several weeks have passed and the impression has got around that Wallace has done little to revitalize the department. Instead of meddling in wholesale firings, however, Wallace proceeded on the premise that there might be a lot of good, suppressed talent inside the agency. He began a careful manhunt to see what physical resources he inherited from Jesse Jones.

What Wallace found was amazing. He discovered that beneath the top crust of weary, over-aged personnel was a group of courageous, energetic, younger men, who had never had a chance to show their stuff during Jones's administration. Wallace promoted them, and is now beginning to surround himself with some first-class people.

One example is the Civil Aeronautics Administration, which Wallace has completely revamped and turned into a first-class public service outfit, geared for expanding post-war aviation.

Wallace is doing the same thing throughout the department. A dozen experts have been at work for more than two months on a complete reorganization of the agency which he will submit to Congress after the recess. Wallace knows he is in for tough sledding with the Truman Administration and with Congress, but he is plugging ahead.

Inside fact is that if Wallace doesn't get the support he has been promised by Truman, he will join the ranks of the ex-Roosevelt Cabinet members by becoming an ex-Truman Cabinet member in a hurry.

Frisco: Dream City

A lot of people crowding the hotels of San Francisco during the United Nations Conference wondered why Roosevelt, Churchill, and Stalin picked that city for the party. So did a lot of people in San Francisco. Here is the reason why. It was the result of superstition plus a dream.

In the late Summer of 1943, Ed Stettinius happened to be in San Francisco when Cordell Hull phoned to say that he had been picked to take Sumner Welles's place as Undersecretary of State. So San Francisco, to Stettinius, has always been lucky.

Then one night during the Yalta Conference, Stettinius had a dream about the San Francisco phone call from Hull. Before going to bed Churchill, Roosevelt, and Stalin had been talking about the meeting place for the United Nations Conference. When Stettinius woke up next morning, he thought again of San Francisco.

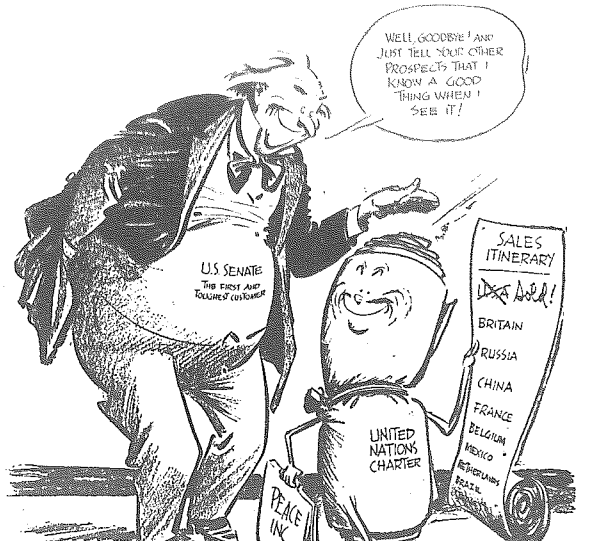
At breakfast, he suggested the idea to Roosevelt, who agreed that San Francisco was a natural. Later Churchill agreed. So did Stalin. And that was why the people of San Francisco had to be subjected to having several thousand extra persons jammed into their already crowded city.

Note—Rival Los Angelans claimed: "Nobody ever heard of Yalta either, until they held a conference there."

Capital Chaff

A lot of Senators are now talking about the importance of scientific research for war preparedness, but it took Wisconsin's farsighted Senator Alexander Wiley to emphasize this back even before Pearl Harbor. Speaking in Milwaukee on June 9, 1941, Wiley said: "We need a great defense laboratory involving the Navy, the War Department, and the State Department. It isn't enough for this Administration to write our defense plans in the shifting sands of day-to-day expediency. . . ." Nazi inventions of rockets, long-range artillery, and electric mines certainly bore him out. . . . Gen. B. F. Giles and Lt. Col. John Breckenridge are given credit for arranging the airplane joyrides of tobacco heiress Doris Duke around the Mediterranean. She was supposed to be a hostess in a maritime recreation center, but got bored and flew to Italy. . . . Vermont's hard-working Senator Aiken is reintroducing his St. Lawrence Waterway bill. This was one of FDR's pet projects. Truman voted for it while in the Senate, though it's not known how much steam he'll put behind it now. Many commerce economic experts feel that the St. Lawrence Waterway project would benefit the country as much or more than the Missouri Valley Authority, TVA, Boulder Dam or Grand Coulee.

Now for the Cleanup



. . . And See The World

By Marquis Childs

WASHINGTON

REMEMBER how there travel ads used to read in the old days? Cruise around the world. . . . the Taj Mahal by moonlight. . . . you on a Swiss Alp. . . . fashionable Paris and London in the season.

Well, that is what Congress is getting for vacation. It may not be de luxe. It is dressed up as a Congressional mission to the Subcommittee of the House Committee on Interstate Commerce to investigate the newsprint supply in the foreign field.

But call it what you want to, it's travel. We stay-at-homes can only look on with envy as at least 200 members of the House and a number of Senators take off for foreign climes.

Run for Congress and See the World. That kind of slogan may attract new blood.

You can make a good case for sending Congressmen to look at what has happened to our planet after six years of conflict. It is a sobering sight; one that can scarcely be believed unless it is seen.

That case is weakened, however, by the thing that takes so much of the work of Congress—duplication. It shouldn't be necessary to send every member of both the House and the Senate into the Pacific.

When a Congressional delegation arrives at Guam or the Philippines and there are at least two out three non-top-ranking communiqués have to take time off to receive them. They have to answer the same questions over and over again. They have to give more or less formal dinners for the visiting firemen.

Of course the Army and the Navy bring part of this on themselves, not the commanders in the field but those here in Washington, both in uniform and out, who want to impress the Army or Navy point of view on the lawmakers. Before the new White House directive, you could get on the Navy's ship. But without leaving at all and before you knew it you would be in Alaska. Those used to be good travel ads, too, with the picture of the snow-capped mountain and the fellow casting for trout in an azure lake. The Committee on Territories has been authorized to go to the land of the glacier and the Eskimo. Next year, and a group from the Committee on Roads will investigate the Alaskan Highway, which has been investigated so often that you could pave it with Congressmen laid end to end and have enough left over to reach from Edmonton to Minneapolis. A third committee was to have gone on an Interior Department tour, but the new directive may have ended that.

The House Foreign Affairs Committee has divided up the world to keep everybody happy. One group of four got the grand jaunt to Paris, a trip to the Balkans and Russia, with Representative Thomas S. Gordon of Illinois as chairman.

At least eight others are making the grand tour of Europe. They will reach London in time for the UNRRA conference and go on from there to the devastated areas of France, Holland, Belgium and Italy.

Seriously, it is a great responsibility that these men and women assume when they go abroad. Everything an American says, and especially an official American, is weighed in these times all over the world. While we ticket some of our irresponsible Congressmen and properly discount their wilder remarks, foreigners have no measuring rod.

Officers and GIs I talked with in Europe last Winter were critical of certain junketing Congressmen. They felt the Congressmen were not sufficiently serious in their approach to the war.

Representative John J. Cochran, one of the saurest and shrewdest members of the House, who is staying here in Washington during the recess, warned his traveling colleagues the other day. Unwarranted meddling in troubled Europe is dangerous, Cochran said and the travelers might point that but of advice in their hats before they take off.

Wisely, it seems to me, the White House has instructed the Executive Department to take members of Congress on junkets abroad only when they pay their fare.

SIDE GLANCES By Galbraith

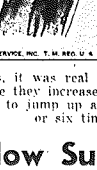
"Well, miss, it was real pleasant for a while there, but since they increased the gas allowance I've got to jump up and wait on folks five or six times a day!"

How Surrender?

By Samuel Grafton

NEW YORK

HOW hard it is to frame surrender terms! It is quite clear that the Allies would like to leave at least a part of the present ruling group in charge in Japan. That ruling group would certainly like to remain in charge. Why, then, with the military outcome no longer in doubt, is it so hard for the two to come together?



The answer, probably, is that it is almost impossible, in modern war, to make a deal of the kind proposed, even though both sides may be quite willing to do so. A brigand ruling group which leads its country into such desperate adventures as those on which Japan has embarked cannot survive the collapse of its bones, no matter what the terms of the peace. Those who live by the sword cannot be saved by a compromise, at least not in our generation.

Our policy-makers would like to rescue part of the Zaibatsu, or Japanese big business community. But we are also forced to dismantle Japanese heavy industry, to prevent Japan from committing another war. That leaves the Zaibatsu cut in half, with much of its investment gone, and with several millions of industrial unemployed on its hands.

The Zaibatsu might be able to survive even so, if it were allowed to run Japan as a police state. But even as we try to save the Zaibatsu, we find ourselves forced, if only in deference to world opinion, to guarantee free speech and free political action to the Japanese. This, to the Zaibatsu, is a sentence of death; it cannot survive defeat and unemployment and free speech.

This war has a logic all its own, which operates even when those who are in charge of it would like to sidestep some of its imperatives. The Zaibatsu may decide hopelessly on surrender. But, if it continues to fight, it will be because it knows that even the victors, strangely enough, don't have the power to rescue it. We can temper the wind to the shorn lamb, but not to the shearer.

For we have made continuous efforts, all through this war, to save some of those responsible for bringing the war about, and we have been uniformly unsuccessful. We had enough power to destroy Hitler, but we did not have enough power to salvage Darlan; all the resources of the Allies could not do that little job. The most remarkable example is the Conservative party of Britain, which tried to save the remnants of fascist reaction in Europe and has failed to save even itself. Mr. Churchill, how with his plans to save the thrones of Italy and Greece, never suspected that the sensational price he would pay would be to lose his own power.

Basically, what we are trying to do now is to make an exception of Japan, and to show that at least some of the men who were responsible for inflicting this horror on the world can survive as rulers. We have made a good offer. But no matter how ingeniously we twist and turn, we find ourselves standing in our own way, or, rather, we find the logic of the war blocking us.

We are physically remodeling Japan with our B-29s even as we talk of preserving it. We are demonstrating to every Japanese that their Emperor is a failure, even while we hint at preserving him; and, finally, we offer the Japanese business community the gift of a more democratic Japan, though one of the reasons why it adopted the course of militarism was to have an excuse for repressing democracy at home.

If the only officials in Japan who have the power to surrender fail to do so, it will be because of these tangled contradictions. The Japanese are admittedly a people of a special kind. But a fascinated world will watch to see if in Japan, too, there still holds good the great rule underlying this war, that a settlement which lets the wrong men off is beyond the power of the victors to offer or of the vanquished to accept.

People's Platform

In Fighting Trim

By J. P. LONG

Lincolnton

I have been taking your paper several years by carrier, but the editorial of July 24 "First Obligation," fixed me.

I don't know who wrote this but who ever it was, is right. He has never been out of Mecklenburg County. He doesn't know what a soldier has to go through, with I am a Spanish War veteran and a member of Chase Camp, Charlotte. The Spanish War was fought by volunteers only, the men who that was over fought in vaudeville.

We put up U. S. on the map as a first class military country. We dug holes in all kinds small pox, yellow fever, malaria and bullets. While the millionaires made bigger fortunes. The dirty rotten lie keeping that the Spanish War veterans and World War I veterans raided the U. S. Treasury. I don't think I know one vet who ever said that. Of course there are some who may be with us that was crippled in Europe and suffer their pain. You are wrong.

All Spanish War veterans are over 66 years old and the little pitiful amount we get and are begrudged by you is more than I can think of. I live in Lincolnton, and am a patriotic citizen and any time you want to meet me I am at 210 N. Aspen St. Every veteran should read your paper and I for one have already done so. A person as common as you should be deported with what you to publish this and if you don't I'll send a copy to the Charlotte Observer.

George Crane, Tom Jimison

By ROBERT HARRELL

Shelby

FOR a good many years I have looked to The Charlotte News as my favorite daily and you have featured many features are so near "tops" each one has its own place in the lives of your readers, but in Dr. Crane's feature we not only have interest, but guidance we need; guidance we have literally been dying for.

You so faithfully and effectively sponsored the Tom Jimison crusade that it literally shook the state and awoke the people to the needs of better medical attention, encouraging hundreds, perhaps thousands of columns by the best writers on such needs. Much good has been accomplished by your initial efforts, much more will be accomplished all over the world as the future affords the opportunity.

Still it sometimes appears that your chief thing we accomplished is bigger jobs and bigger pay for the big shots.

But in Dr. Crane's column there is the help we so much need right now, ready to be used by any reader who is interested. Had many of us had this opportunity in youth, we would not need quite so many millions of dollars for state hospitals today.

Quote, Unquote

WE have reached the point where the issue no longer is in any doubt and the harder we point it, year after year now, the sooner we will all go home.

—Gen. Joseph W. Stilwell.

Answering experiences with bare shelves in groceries and meat markets and outrageous prices for much that is available, are hurtling the minds of many city workers toward a place in the country.

—Elkhart, Ind., Truth.

Firm attacks are becoming evidence violent but let us have absolute faith in the preparations of our command against enemy landings on our homeland.

—Premier Suzuki of Japan.

I call upon the organized work-

Statesmen At Work

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

REP. ERVIN (N. C.) Mr Speaker I have been impressed for a long time by the fact that the President of the United States must attend to many arduous details which should be performed by someone else.

During Mr Roosevelt's lifetime on earth he was busy signing appointments of postmasters. It is necessary for the President to fix the fees charged by toll-gate tellers in the area of the Panama Canal. Such minor details constitute a strain upon the President's health and seriously interfere with his duties as President. I therefore introduced in the House a bill which would authorize the President to delegate the performance of such duties to any officer or officers of the United States who may be designated by him to perform such duties.

I realize that it would be better if the proposed bill I am proposing could specifically designate the particular duty to be so delegated and it does so. The bill which may be passed by the Congress and approved by the President does provide in detail the specific duties which may be delegated by him to appropriate officers. However, I think it would be better if the President himself should specifically designate the particular duty to be so delegated and it does so. The bill which may be passed by the Congress and approved by the President does provide in detail the specific duties which may be delegated by him to appropriate officers. However, I think it would be better if the President himself should specifically designate the particular duty to be so delegated and it does so. The bill which may be passed by the Congress and approved by the President does provide in detail the specific duties which may be delegated by him to appropriate officers. However, I think it