THE CHARLOTTE NEWS

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The Legal Travesty At Nuernberg

THE fantastic crimes of the Nazi Party have reached that stage of incredibility where none of the evidence being unearthed in Germany shocks the reading public. A concentration camp commander casually announces that he had, over a period of several years, personally supervised the execution of 2,300,000 persons, most of them Jews; the story causes a flurry in the American press comparable to the announcement that Lana Turner has bought a new sweater.

Perhaps the involved legal processes of the trial at Nuernberg have dulled our interest. It is easy to lose the thread of a story, even the melodramatic history of Nazi infamy, in the bickering of lawyers over the rules of evidence. And yet, one of the most revealing items to come out of Nuernberg centered around the exchange between the defense counsel for Rudolph Hess and Soviet Prosecutor R. A. Rudenko.

The German lawyer attempted to introduce an affidavit by the former German Ambassador to Moscow purporting to show that a secret pre-war Russo-German treaty fixed spheres of political influence in Europe. The Soviet Prosecutor objected: "I don't know what kind of documents he is talking about. It sounds like hearsay to me."

Without further discussion, Chief Justice Sir Geoffrey Lawrence sustained the objection. Hess' lawyer then said: "In that case I must ask permission to call Soviet Foreign Commissioner Molotov to establish if this agreement was not actually concluded." The Associated Press reported: "The tribunal ignored that request and the galleries tittered."

It seems to us, reading the reports from Nuernberg at this vast distance, that the matter of the alleged Russo-German pact is relevant enough to warrant open discussion. The summary dismissal of the affidavit upon the prosecution's complaint that "it sounds like hearsay," and the refusal to even entertain the request that an obviously competent witness be called, hardly fits into the Western concept of justice, upon which we understood the War Crimes trials were to be based.

There is every reason to respect the good faith of Justice Jackson and his colleagues; they have undertaken their monumental task with courage, intelligence, and a deep understanding of its importance. But if international law is to stand as a safeguard to peace it must be based, as domestic law is, upon impartiality; the suspicion of bias clings to the victor who sets himself up as both prosecutor and judge and undertakes trial of the vanquished.

The legal ritual at Nuernberg cannot disguise the conviction of the people of America, Britain and Russia, who have long since determined the guilt of the accused. The arguments of defense and prosecution are no more than a formal prelude to a foregone conclusion, and, for all their studied dignity, they have become a travesty of justice. The final verdict in the case of The People *versus* The Nazi Party will not be handed down in the solemn words of the Chief Justice; we have already heard it in the tittering of the galleries.

Henry's Neck Is Out Again

WE confess to a light, unseasonable sympathy with the Republican complaint that Henry Wallace is attempting to entangle American foreign policy in partisan politics. Senator Ball, one of the more enlightened members of the G.O.P., seized upon Secretary Wallace's Jackson Day remark that "the traditional isolationist (Republican) policies would inevitably lead to world disaster" and accused him of raising a false issue.

It is quite true that a good many Republicans have been individually addicted to isolation. But, with a few exceptions—such as the G. O. P. protective tariffs of the Twenties and the Party's uncertain opposition to lend lease and draft extension in the shaky days before Pearl Harbor—there has been no official Republican line in international policy. A good many Republicans, such as Senator Vandenburg, Commander Stassen, and Party Adviser Dulles, are in the forefront of the fight for the UNO these days, and other Republican stalwarts in Congress are dedicated internationalists. And, let us not forget, as Mr. Wallace apparently did, that the most active of all the pre- and post-war isolationists is a loyal Democrat by the name of Burton K. Wheeler.

It is logical that the Republicans, being officially conservative, and being out of power, would find themselves opposing a good many Administration measures designed to bolster our foreign policy. The laying out of large sums of money is likely to give a Republican a touch of the horrors, regardless of whether it be for a loan to Britain or to plow under a cotton crop, but the opposition in these matters derives more from method than from principle.

The effort to condemn the Republican Party for its traditional foreign policy implies, of course, that the Democratic Party is equipped with a forthright, thoroughgoing policy of its own, upon which its members are united. The record of the past six months will hardly bear out that thesis: Democrats are generally internationalists, in conversation, but when you say that you've said about all you can say.

It is not insignificant that the one politician who has come out with a forthright and detailed proposal for the internationalization of the atom bomb is the aforementioned Commander Stassen, a leading possibility for the Republican Presidential nomination. Harry S. Truman, the leading Democratic possibility, has, on the other hand, insisted on exclusive Anglo-American control of that dubious secret at all costs.

Mr. Wallace, a zealot who is properly concerned with the disintegration of his own Party, had, we think, better go easy on foreign policy. He has the makings of a fine crusade against the archaic domestic policies of the G. O. P., and the pattern of past victories to prove how successful it can be, but he should understand that the issue of isolationism is charged with dynamite. At best it's likely to be a pot-and-kettle affair, and at worst he may find himself cast in the role of a reactionary defending outmoded foreign policy against the attack of a vigorous internationalist far out in front of his own position.

It's Still The Age Of Miracles

THIS week, aboard the Victory Ship *Alexander Doniphan*, headed north in rough seas off the North Carolina coast, a seaman fell ill. The first of a series of minor miracles thereupon took place: a man sat down at a wireless set and sent out a call for help with all the calm certainty of a householder picking up his telephone to summon the doctor who lives three doors down the street.

The second miracle followed in short order. A plane bearing Lieutenant Commander John C. Grier of Charlotte, a surgeon, appeared over the *Doniphan* as she pounded northward 250 miles off Currituck. Unable to land in the 18-foot seas, the plane circled while, via radio, Commander Grier heard a description of the ailing seaman's symptoms, asked questions, directed tests. A thousand feet in the air, he conducted his examination of a patient he had never seen, and would never see, and made his diagnosis spinal meningitis.

Off Cape May, the third miracle took place. A Navy blimp appeared over the *Doniphan* and lowered a package containing penicillin, a miracle in its own right. The stricken seaman received his first treatment as the *Doniphan* swung toward New York Harbor; at Ambrose Light he was delivered to the care of a waiting airsea rescue crew directed there by the final miracle of the series that saved his life.

This is a routine story, hardly worthy of the notice of a busy copy reader scrawling black headlines for the black news that crowds upon him: it creeps into the newspapers, if at all, to a place near the bottom of an inside page. Our disinterest in the constructive miracles man has wrought, and our preoccupation with his plans for destruction, are a study in irony. But they also afford room for hope—if we have come to expect man to conquer time and space upon demand perhaps we also have reason to expect him to learn to live in peace.

Another Voice

Happy Birthday, Dear Gaston

AS one of the older children in the Tar Heel family which celebrated its 100th birthday some time ago, Cleveland County, is now ready to felicitate its neighbor Gaston upon reaching this anniversary and stands ready to whoop up things in any way it can to help out the celebration which is to take place this Fall.

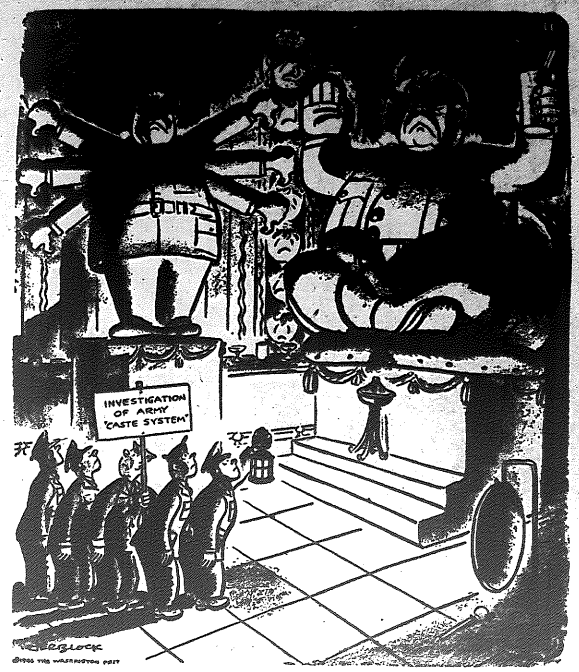
According to Rep. A. L. Bulwinkle, Gaston County was organized in December, 1846, which shoves it into the centenarian class along about Christmas of this year.

The way the *Gastonia Gazette* is talking about the approaching event makes us glad we are going to be next door while the "big doings" are in progress. Listen to what the *Gazette* says:

"This is a most appropriate time to have a big county-wide celebration, one surpassing any Fourth of July, historical pageant, cotton festival or any such event we have ever observed here. It should be a combination of the best features of all the above, paramounted by the historical motif. With the rigors and restrictions of the war over, relaxed and rejoicing over the end of the terrible years of agony, we ought to throw ourselves with reckless abandon and enthusiasm into the preparation of this mammoth event."

Hundredth birthdays come only once in so often and we don't blame Gaston for making the most of the one which it is about to have.—*Shelby Daily Star.*

Exploring The Temple Of Brass



People's Platform

It's Cold In Russia

CHARLOTTE

A few years ago we were engaged in what, at the time, seemed a very important struggle for our lives. At the time when Stalingrad and the Suez (and therefore the war) seemed all but lost. I took occasion to write Franklin D. Roosevelt, then our Commander-in-Chief, as follows:

"Wars are very uncertain undertakings. In the event that America, Britain and Russia should happen even yet to come out of this one on top, I strongly advise that they get together on a program of jointly keeping the peace thereafter. That means, of course, that they get together and make their wants and wishes known to each other when the war has been brought to a successful conclusion, and that each takes this or that country that he or she feels that he or she needs in order to be content to maintain the peace, rather than to disrupt it.

"In other words, let the three jointly establish a status quo that the three will instantly and collectively go to war in order to maintain when it is threatened."

It seems, unfortunately for posterity, that this letter was misplaced, or that Franklin failed to take appropriate action on same. I say 'unfortunately,' because they say that it gets very cold in Russia.

There are several things, I personally, don't like about the present status quo. One is the way the Russians are responding to the Iranian plea to lettuce alone. Three others are the way Britain is responding to the Indian, Greek and Egyptian plea ditto.

If the State Department feels that it is absolutely essential that at this time we send the G.I. section of our population forth to fight an idealistic war, I should like to suggest that Britain would be a heck of a lot easier to whip than Russia. And I should like to repeat: it gets cold as the dickens in Russia.

—ALTON E. BASSETT

The Ways Of Peace

WILMINGTON

THIS is a letter to all statesmen, all politicians, to all military leaders of the world who think war, yet choose their words carefully speaking of peace.

On your hearts and on the hearts of those dead for centuries who have contributed each his tiny and miserable share to the vast indignities and sorrows of the past and those yet to come rests the responsibilities of the future.

I, too, have a solution for the fate of humanity.

Who shall control the atom bomb? He who gets there "fustest with the mostest." No—for the end is the same—be it early or be it late.

Let every nation, every republic, every country large and small elect one representative and let that representative be a mother. Place in the laps of these mothers the atomic bomb and say to them, "Which do you choose for your children, life or death?" Thats' all.

Have all young men of war died in vain? Has each sacrifice no weight in the scales of fate? Cannot man learn by his mistakes? Is man vile or is he simply a pawn in some universal game? Does Jesus still weep or are we now alone and victims of our own despicable carelessness?

So many of us long for peace, are ready to reach out a friendly hand to every race—to all the world. But we are pushed around. We are led by the nose. We do as we are told, and the end is becoming clear. The storm is gathering. May God guide us.

And now abidith these three—Faith, Hope and Charity, but the greatest of these is Charity. Will Charity be able to endure?

—MRS. C. L. BETHEA

Note On Herrings

WARMINSTER, PA.

I JUST received a letter from Senator Cox, Georgia, in which he says "I believe in Universal Military Training in the light of world conditions. I think it would be very foolish to do otherwise. . . . We are now dismantling our war machine too rapidly. Russia will take the world unless English speaking peoples stop her."

I have replied to the Senator:

Dear Senator Cox, why is Russia so suddenly perfidious? Is it not possible that the Russian dope now being swallowed by the American public might be a figment of the imagination of Walter Winchell, the Hearst newspapers* and the State Department covering up its own ineptitude?

The German and Japanese Herrings have served their purpose in producing World Wars I & II and now safely defunct, is there anything that might cause the above worthies to drop their nice fresh Russian Red Herring long enough to consider the six bills and resolutions now in Congress fighting for their lives to defeat peacetime conscription, some think the opportunity of a lifetime to arrest herrings, pink, Red and deep magenta at their source?

—ARTHUR COLLINS.

*The oldsters will remember the Yellow Peril Scare in their youth, the child of the same Hearst journalism.

No Glory Road

BRIDGEPORT, CONN.

I find the tendency to self-esteem a characteristic plainly legible in the oratory of ex-Premier Churchill. But let us warn ourselves against illusions. This country will stand shorn of its glory if we shall ever be found to have separated ourselves, through the policies England pursues abroad, from those moral supports which the general and fixed convictions of mankind afford, if the time shall ever come in which we may continue to excite the wonder and fear of other nations and colonial peoples, but in which we will have no part in their affection and regard.

—JOSEPH A. MARTIN

The People's Platform is available to any reader who cares to mount it. Communications should be less than 300 words, typewritten if possible, and on only one side of the paper. Libel and obscenity will be deleted—otherwise anything goes. Each letter must be signed, although, in exceptional cases and upon request, we will withhold the writer's name.—Editors, THE NEWS.

Marquis Childs

'Pollyanna' Truman

WASHINGTON

NOW AND THEN a literary friend looks over my shoulder during the writing of this daily stint. He had been with me the report on President Truman's speech at the Jackson Day dinner, he came through with several gratuitous suggestions.

He said that the President's speech made him think of Mr. Micawber, Dickens' eternal optimist who was always sure that something was about to turn up to change his fortunes.

But we ruled out Dickens' dear old sentimentalist. After all, Mr. Micawber came to a bad end. He was sure that something was about to turn up on the very eve of his arrest for bad debts.

Next, my eager friend suggested a parallel with Voltaire's Candide. Candide was forever saying, "All is for the best in the best of possible worlds." He kept on saying it even when he was going through the most painful and horrifying experiences.

Candide seemed, however, a little too high flown, too literary. Voltaire was out.

What it came down to, and this is a confession, was Eleanor Hodgman Porter's gem of some years back, "Pollyanna, the Glad Girl." (What is more, and this really is pretty bad, my friend suggested it should be spelled "Pauleyanna"). "Pollyanna" came out considerably before the Coolidge era, but it would have served admirably as a piece of the moral furniture of that time—as a large, squashy sofa into which you could sink right up to your neck.

TOO UNKIND

Perhaps my friend was unnecessarily unkind about the President's speech. After all, it was an occasion for good fellowship with the members of his party gathered around the festive board.

In advance of the speech, however, there had been rumblings of what the President would say about party unity and party responsibility. There seemed reason to believe that this would be a hard-hitting talk in which the Chief Executive would serve notice that irresponsibility in Congress was not merely damaging Democratic chances of re-election, but threatening the nation's reconversion program.

The President may have such a speech in his system. Heaven knows, he's had plenty of provocation.

But the Jackson Day speech was not it. That address had all the violent impact of a feather falling on velvet.

FOOLISH TALK

All of this makes talk of a purge within the Democratic Party sound very foolish. President Roosevelt was reluctantly persuaded in 1938 to try to eliminate some of the most contrary Democrats in Congress. With one exception, that attempt failed miserably. The rancor it left behind was not soon forgotten.

It is hard to conceive of President Truman taking a similar step. He has long been schooled in party orthodoxy and party loyalty.

There are dissenters who defy the President from his very front porch, or what used to be his front porch. Rep. Roger C. Slaughter of Missouri was elected from the district in Missouri that includes a large part of Jackson County. It includes Truman's home town of Independence.

Slaughter has voted against almost every measure Truman has recommended to Congress. Moreover, as a member of the monopolistic Rules Committee, he has helped to bottle up the "must" bills the President has sent up to the Hill. Another Missourian, Clarence Cannon, chairman of the Appropriations Committee, has certainly not helped his old friend.

UNDERSTATEMENT

The strongest approach in the Presidential speech to party unity and party responsibility was to say that without it "the party program is delayed." That is certainly an understatement. The party program is already seriously delayed. Earlier in his talk, the President had said:

"Only by dedicating ourselves to the principle of national unity can we keep America strong and free. And this time basic principle applies to the Democratic Party. As in the nation at large, there is diversity of opinion among us, but the fundamental principles of the Democratic Party bind us together in a unity of purpose—an inflexible determination that our party shall advance to new and greater achievements."

The stage had been set. Secretary Wallace and Democratic Chairman Hannegan had both struck the note of party obligation. But the President is apparently not prepared to quarrel with the men in his party who are sabotaging his program.

Samuel Grafton

Liberal Bloc Hopes

NEW YORK

ONE wonders how good the chances are that a Liberal Bloc may emerge on the national scene to challenge the existing Conservative Bloc of Republicans and dissident Southern Democrats; and one is forced to report that the chances do not seem half bad. Party government is better than bloc government, but there is a possibility, at the present gaudy stage in the political affairs of the Republic, that we may return to responsible party government by the bloc route; that we may develop two loose political clubs, or confederations, one liberal, one conservative, which, may in the end, harden into and become political parties.

For Mr. Henry Wallace made a rather mysterious statement during his speech at the Jackson Day Dinner in Washington. After describing the Democratic Party as the "party of progress," and after preaching the virtues of party regularity, he said: "into this party we must welcome all independent Republicans—all independent progressives everywhere — who seek progress and cannot find it elsewhere."

ODD FOOTNOTE

That is an odd footnote to a plea to Congressmen to be good party men, and it indicates that Mr. Wallace already has in his mind the conception of a liberal coalition; he is proceeding toward it, while extolling the Democratic Party, in a dead-pan manner, just as the dissident Southerners talk of themselves, dead-pan style, as good Democrats, while voting almost invariably with the Republicans.

It seems to me that efforts to purge the dissidents within the party are about over; purges don't work; and the major drive must and will take place along the line of building a coalition to oppose a coalition. The announcement of last week-end that a liberal House committee of 39 Democrats and four Republicans has been formed to fight for the minimum wage bill fits into the picture. While this is a somewhat one-sided committee, a very dry martini, indeed, the fact remains that the formation of such a committee is unusual; and it was the bold creation of a similar committee of Republicans and Southern Democrats three weeks ago to fight price control which started Wallace and Hannegan on their attacks against the dissident Southerners.

POT AND KETTLE

It seems clear (one would not bet his life on this proposition, and yet the facts are sharp enough) that the great fight between liberal and conservative factions in the Democratic Party has taken a new turn; that both wings will, with increasing frankness, look to outside support. Meanwhile, of course, each wing will unsmilingly refer to itself as consisting of the only true regulars, and both will find protection in the adage that it is awkward for the pot to call the kettle black.

PROCESS SPEEDED UP

The almost molecular process which has been producing new formations in American politics is being enormously speeded up. The key statistic is that Mr. Roosevelt would have won all four of his elections even if the entire South had voted against him each time, which, of course, it never did; and liberal strength of this scope cannot have dried up and blown away. Both the Republicans and the Southern Democrats are perhaps likely to find that they have each lost some of their members in their wild leaping toward the other's bosom; and the long fight for clarification of American party lines is reaching up to a new, more complex, and it might be said demurely, more mature level.

Drew Pearson's Merry-Go-Round

War Dept. Won't Ask Increase In Army

WASHINGTON

THAT the Truman Cabinet is not looking for war in the near future, despite warlike talk, was indicated at a secret session of the Senate Military Affairs Committee last week.

When Secretary of State Byrnes and Secretary of War Patterson testified in favor of an extension of the Selective Service Act, the figures they presented on planned strength of the Army and Navy were exactly the same as those presented early in January. In other words, they proposed an Army of barely over a million men by July of 1947.

The Senators had expected that because of the complicated international situation a larger Army would be asked for, but the War and State Departments made no such request. When one Senator asked how it happened that there was no "emergency" planning, Secretary Byrnes refused to answer. He passed the question to Secretary Patterson, who also did not reply.

Wallace Speech Censored

IT wasn't supposed to be known outside the Cabinet, but Henry Wallace's speech at the Jackson Day Dinner was censored—by President Truman himself. Wallace had one line in his speech which he thought would answer Republican critics. Its read:

"Abraham Lincoln was not a member of our party. But he was certainly a fellow traveler."

Truman thought such a reference to the martyred Lincoln might be misunderstood and cut it out. Wallace was glad to concur.

British Want War

BRITISH Tories were pleased as punch over Winston Churchill's Fulton, Mo., speech—for several reasons.

First, they think it is now less likely that Britain will get its loan from this country, and they do not want the loan. Tory leaders would prefer to work out their own problems by closing an economic ring around the sterling bloc nations and using tabbed currency so they could only import goods from England. This was the same plan Dr. Hjalmar Schacht devised for the Nazis.

Reason No. 2 was Russia. It is highly significant that just one day after the Churchill speech, reactionary Russia-hater Lord Beaverbrook called a secret meeting of leading industrialists to plan a diplomatic campaign which some Britishers fear might lead to eventual war with the Soviet Union. Present at the meeting were three members of the Labor Cabinet—including Arthur Greenwood and Ernest Bevin.

Men's Suits

IT still looks like a long wait before veterans can get the clothing they need. The Office of War Mobilization and Reconversion will soon bring out a report on men's clothing showing a need for 40 million suits this year but production plans for only about 28 million.

The report will also show that first quarter production has been only about five million, and officials of the Civilian Production Administration are worried sick that even the goal of 28 million suits for 1946 will not be met.

There is no sign yet that the increase in prices granted this month by OPA will mean more men's suits. There are indications, however, that large stocks of suits are being held off the market in the hope that price control will not be extended beyond June.

New Ambassador To Russia

SENATOR TOM CONNALLY of Texas chased reporters from the room and closed the doors of the Foreign Relations Committee during the juicest part of the testimony by General Bedell Smith, new U. S. Ambassador to Russia.

This was in connection with the late General George Patton's slapping of a shell-shocked soldier.

Asked if he was responsible for the Army's denial that Patton had been reprimanded by General Dwight Eisenhower—a denial later repudiated—Smith replied:

"Yes, I was responsible for the original statement."

The three-star general blushed and squirmed in his chair as he made the admission.

"Why did you do that?" he was asked. "What grounds was there for such a statement, if you knew General Patton had actually been reprimanded?"

"Well, technically I was correct," Smith replied with an air that didn't strike committee members as very convincing. "While certain steps had been taken, there had been no formal reprimand at the time the statement was issued."

Smith appeared contrite about the incident, so committee members didn't censure him or protract the questioning after he made his "confession."

Note—Gen. Smith was not questioned about another famous denial he issued, namely his statement that General Leslie McNair had been killed by enemy action when it was well known that McNair and several other Americans were killed by carelessly aimed American bombs near St. Lo.

John L. Lewis

FOR years John L. Lewis has been one of labor's top negotiators. Usually he has his facts cold. Last week, however, while arguing safety precautions with Harry Moses, an important Pittsburgh mine operator, he said:

"Why, Harry, your father is a good illustration of why we need these safeguards. Everybody knows him as a veteran coal man, and we've all seen him limping around for 50 years because of a mine accident. So how can you sit there and deny us the safeguards to prevent the same sort of thing from happening to other miners?"

"John," replied Moses, "I don't know where you got your information about my father—but it wasn't so good. I'll tell you how he hurt his leg. It wasn't in a coal mine, it was playing baseball. He broke his leg sliding into second."

Note—Bureau of Mines officials heartily indorse Lewis's demands for better safety precautions in the mines.