

THE CHARLOTTE NEWS

And Evening Chronicle

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TUESDAY, OCTOBER 28, 1941

It Is War

Too Late Now for a Congressional Declaration

President Roosevelt last night recognized that a state of war exists between the United States and Germany. If this seems an extreme interpretation of the President's Navy Day message, it is a simple matter to refer once more to Mr. Roosevelt's exact words:

"And history has recorded who fired the first shot. In the long run, however, all that will matter is who fired the last shot."

When the President talked about "shooting," he simply recognized that war, as it is made today, can be waged against a nation whether it wishes to face the facts or not. Mr. Roosevelt prefers to face the facts.

It would have been better if the President had stated in so many words that we are at war. He preferred to let it be known by implication; and the nation, if it thinks clearly, will know what to infer.

Some, no doubt, will drag up the old complaint about the power of Congress having been usurped. No such thing. Congress had nothing to do with it. Hitler declared war, in fact and in action, against this country. He did not give us the opportunity to declare war against him first. Now that the war is actually being fought on the Atlantic, there would be little merit in a Congressional declaration of war. It was necessary only that the Congress recognize the outbreak of hostilities against us and report this fact to the nation. This President Roosevelt has done.

There is no turning back. As the late President McKinley of Greece said to his valiant soldiers, "Now, boys, we are attacked. And now the battle..."

In Miniature

College Students Take Adult Stands on Two Issues

The North Carolina Student Legislature meets once a year and is attended by delegates from the dozen or more colleges in the state. Its fifth session was held at Raleigh last week, and the most notable—at least the most newsworthy—action taken was (1) adoption of a resolution, by Bob Reynolds, to resign (former Governor) Hoke Smith to be appointed in his place, and (2) "passage" by the Senate of a bill to restore Prohibition in North Carolina and to make it stick unless repealed by state vote. The House killed that bill.

The Student Legislature will pass through the motions of law-making, of course, yet its votes indicate just how the wind is blowing from the campus quarters. Judging by the two acts described above, it may be said with some assurance that the rising generation of citizens is of two minds about liquor, one mind about Bob Reynolds. That about represents the attitude of the state at large, we'd guess.

Ah, Faith

Mrs. Roosevelt Has It, Gents, and No Kidding

Mrs. Roosevelt, bless her heart, is at ways on the lookout for dangers to the working man. We are appreciative of this interest, even though at times she embarrasses us by her superior knowledge of sociology and economics and things like that.

The other day, of instance, the First Lady delivered a sort of a little fireside chat during which she said she opposed putting a ceiling over wages to check inflation.

"It would seem better, perhaps, to protect the worker from a rising cost of living not only through control of price on foodstuffs but through some kind of rental control, and then appeal to his democratic patriotism for a voluntary stabilizing agreement, arrived at by the machinery instituted for collective bargaining."

Our immediate reaction to this statement was that Mrs. Roosevelt can't write a longer sentence than we can, and second, that she is possessed on an unbounded faith in human nature. For some time it has been apparent that somebody in the Roosevelt household believed that "voluntary stabilization agreements" were worth the most expensive bond paper they might be written on.

Mrs. Roosevelt's faith is, perhaps, a beautiful thing. It has endured the "voluntary" shipyard strike (in violation of "voluntary" agreements), the Pacific

Coast welders' strike (current and ditto), the extremely ripe odor of the Currier contract case (showing one drawback to "voluntary" agreements) and many another thing and more.

Not for moment would we suggest that Mrs. Roosevelt doesn't read the papers. But if she does, our admiration for her faith in the "voluntary agreement" should be upped another peg.

In this harsh and cynical world, such naïveté is almost touching in the extreme. It is the same naïveté that enabled our pioneer great-grandmothers to celebrate Thanksgiving Day when they had perhaps an all-time low in blessings to be thankful for.

Frozen News

A Newspaper Ethic Doesn't Worry Government Publicists

Of Ironpans Johnson makes a charge in his column today that we take exception to, if we could. (It is a bad sign when you read the Gen'l all the way through and don't resent him even once.)

But when he says that the Government is "letting out news of ship-sinkings at the proper time and in the proper fragments to influence public opinion, we are forced to admit that all the evidence points in that direction. "Time and again," the Navy Department has "frozen" news that an American ship had been attacked and withheld it from the newspapers for days and weeks. There was no other reason for doing this than for propaganda purposes. They saved the news until it would do the most good.

This practice may seem ethically sound to our present Administration, but it enjoys a very low reputation in newspaper circles. A newspaper's first obligation to its readers is to report the news as soon as the facts can be verified. Not to do so is plain suppression. Any agency, governmental or other, that releases or withholds news for the principal reason of influencing public opinion is tampering with freedom of the press and misleading the people of the country.

It is only a short step from withholding news to distorting news, or the giving it false emphasis. And from that to the methods of Dr. Orebelski could be an easier transition than we may think.

C'est Fini

Taps for French Labor Unions Falls on Deaf Ears

What happens to labor unions in a nation that fights Hitler too late and too little is outlined in a terse dispatch from Vichy France. By agreement, all French trade unions are dissolved; their funds confiscated; and their members compelled to join certain "corporate bodies" set up by the state. By the slightest opposition to the puppet government, the labor leader is liable to be "demonstrated" (thought, a worker may be expelled from the "corporation"). Expulsion means no job; unemployment means starvation.

So much for the workers. But what of the union leaders, the men who originated the idea of labor? They were the French labor movement into a turmoil of strikes, slowdowns and disputes? Alas, there is no word of these gentlemen. One imagines, however, that a substantial portion of their number is distinctly eligible for service as hostages. Apparently, American labor leaders are not impressed by the fate of their French brethren. If they are, they don't show any inclination to profit by the example. France lost the war largely because her industry failed to produce. And the main reason why it failed to produce in the vital years before the war was because French labor leaders put their selfish objectives and their reforms ahead of the nation's safety.

And for the United States it is significant to count the fact that the final abolition of French labor unions appeared in American newspapers side by side with the story of how John Lewis refused to call off a coal mine strike which, if continued, will stop more than 80 per cent of America's defense industry. We wonder if it has ever occurred to Mr. Lewis how fine a hostage he would make.

Every so often it is asked, "why not a be-kind-to-Petain week?" Then Vichy speaks again, in a German accent.

Reporting Sinkings

By Hugh S. Johnson

THERE is one encouraging development in our battle against the U-boat war and one not so encouraging.

The first is the apparent tenacity of life of modern naval craft. It isn't permitted to go beyond the center of the sea without the very casualty list of the destroyer Kearny implicating the U-boat that she must have had a terrible hole blown in her. Yet she reached port.

Apparently her water-tight compartments and closed bulk-heads saved her, notwithstanding that the nature of her casualties hinted that some men were imprisoned alive, smothered or drowned in them.

Some terribly wounded British ships are in American shipyards being repaired with remarkably swift efficiency. Their names and locations have generally been joyfully withheld by the U.S. Navy, but the facts are obvious to any interested naval observer.

MODERN NAVAL UNITS TAKE A LOT OF KILLING

That the damage to some of them was not deadly seems incredible, but more incredible still is the fact that they were some how brought limping here—some time halfway around the world.

The answer appears to be much the same as it was in the case of the Kearny. They may not be invulnerable to attack by submarine and aerial torpedoes, but they certainly take a lot of killing before they are really dead. And hence into the phantoms' lap a bottle proclaiming a high school victory.

But don't let's forget Admiral Carver's "coping" Spanish fleet off Santiago, sinking almost to the last ship under our superior gunfire.

THE SAILORS DON'T KNOW

My line is an army training and tradition but you've got to hand it to the sailors. They don't know where they are listed and you can't be sure they are gone until they are embalmed and buried—or cremated.

The discouraging development is the apparent complete helplessness of our merchant fleet compared with their naval sisters. There are so few details of recent sinkings available that the cooling of the sea seems to be so fed up when and as it will produce the greatest war-time effect that is dangerous to do any guessing. But at this stage it appears that the only way to maintain the integrity of a complete and active naval protection.

ARMING MERCHANT SHIPS IS OF DEBATABLE VALUE

The idea of arming merchant vessels is a statistically vague claim. It could do much more harm than good. It looks as if a submarine or aerial bomber could, within range the average commercial carrier is through—whether she is armed or not.

The authorities with the only real information available perhaps have been too busy to consider a more complete and prompt disclosure of some of these sinkings would do much to counter the public opinion that the place—arm and apparently timed information that is given out.

For example there has been a rumor around Washington for several days that, in addition to the Bismarck, the U-30 and the Lehigh, a great Standard Oil tanker—the Walter C. Smith—was completely sunk. It was announced before this place appears.

There may be good reasons for this reticence and for withholding out most of the information of what cargoes these ships are carrying. But they were where they were and they were happened to be unprotected.

Less rather than more frankness is to be expected. We are in this war to our gutlets.

What? With All This Priority Business?

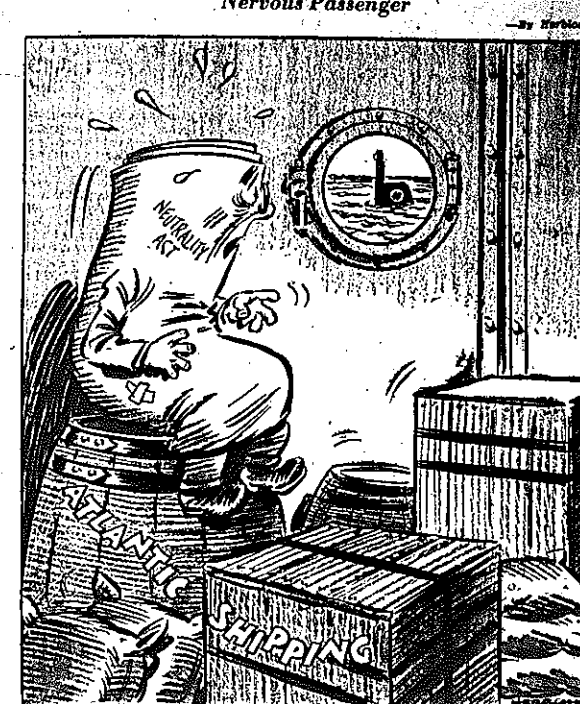
Montgomery Advertiser

It is too great a compliment to the average layman for the householder to expect to give him the exact number of acres necessary to support his life, his room furniture and the like. Why don't they throw in an extra one?

"More people take baths on Sunday night than on any other day of the week," says an insurance statistician, who sees all, knows all.

In the New York press, scores protest the death of a character in a comic strip. Hitler or Jerry might pay dearly for this.

Nervous Passenger



Letters to the Editor:

Sugaw Creek Shames Skunk

Editors, This News:

If I were a poet, I would rhymodize about nature—the great exterior decorating artist—disporting himself in October among the hills and dells of North Carolina, as he flecked the leaves with yellow, and brown, and red, and heaped into the phantoms' lap a plenitude of golden grain.

If I were a poet, I would tell of timid birds fleeing the North Wind; and of reckless of great winged their way to Carolina sanctuaries. And of an autumn night lighted by a bonfire proclaiming a high school victory.

If I were a poet, I would sing of the pleasing odor of burning pine breath of the aroma of baking bread, and of frying ham; of the savor of the cooling of the clove sweetness of hyacinth, and of the fragrance spilled from the white chalice of magnolia trees, and of the honeyuckle yielding nectar to the bees.

If I were a poet—but I am not a poet—only a humble Christian, I would be cured with an unimpaired sense of joy, who lives near the bank of a golden stream. So I can only prospectively report an incident...

One day last week during my improvident and busy, and carrying an open umbrella to invite rain, and to ward off any indiscreet acts of their loved ones, a bomb burst. I went for a stroll. Under a beautiful weeping willow tree, on our bank Little Sugaw Creek came upon a weebone turkey buzzard and a disconsolate skunk.

The buzzard was complaining because, he said, the stench from the creek made all of his hiberno savory food foul; and the skunk was gipping because, he said, his enemies who lived in the vicinity, having become intoxicated by the smell of the creek, no longer feared him.

As I once lived between a glass factory and a lannery, I am not appealing to Mr. Pluck to sweeten Little Sugaw Creek with his musk, but I do not think a Christian community should tolerate starving a buzzard or a skunk.

—LEWIS A. EMMITT,
1709 East Boulevard,
Charlotte.

"X-Terminate X-Mas" Campaign Growing

Editors, This News:

"X-Mas" is washed up. CHRISTMAS is here to stay! The American public is fed up with Christmas. It is here to stay with Christmas. It is here to stay with Christmas. It is here to stay with Christmas.

Dozens of outstanding deals over

Senator Soaper Says:

With the perfecting of the process for making wood edible, the Nazis can eat the invaders, neighbor out of house and home, then eat the house.

A variant indicates a tobacco mould as a link between the animal and vegetable kingdoms. Our guess had been the Mexican jumping bean.

All Nobel monies are withdrawn for the year. This ends any talk of peace and the peace prize as a reward.

Britain Can Pay Us

By Raymond Clapper

IN THE RECENT Lend-Lease debate in the Senate, the very pertinent question of what we are to get in return for the war materials we are now sending to Britain was raised.

Senator Vandenberg, for instance, asked why we should send food to England only to have the British Government sell it and pocket the money.

But the question is broader than the matter of repayment.

But this is the time to consider repayment. Not in dollars, not to a very large degree in the return of the same or similar material. But in acquisition of rights to essential raw materials which are under British control. Preliminary discussions of this are going on between the two Governments, evidently. At least our officials say this matter is not being overlooked.

REPAYMENT CAN BE MADE IN MATERIALS

The critical situation in the Far East makes it all the more desirable that this matter be given the most serious and fairly clear understanding reached as to our permanent sharing in British Empire resources.

The United States and Great Britain share a joint interest in preventing further Japanese encroachment in the Pacific. In anticipation of possible trouble the United States, Great Britain, Australia, New Zealand, China and the Netherlands Indies are working in closest collaboration. We have sent a great deal of war material to that area. If the explosion occurs, and it probably will, all of us will participate in a common effort.

SHALL WE GUARD SOMEONE'S ELSE MONOPOLY? In British quarters it is recognized that the United States must take the lead and bear the main burden in any war with Japan. We are the only nation able to throw in the necessary force.

But for what purpose? Of course, to prevent aggression, to prevent trampling of further territory. But what is our real stake? The real stake is the vast treasure house of raw materials in the East Indies. That is what Japan is fighting to get her hands on. We are determined to prevent it. Because we must protect this treasure house for raw materials which we can get nowhere else.

But this treasure house is under the ownership and domination of Great Britain and her Dutch satellite. Are we simply to underwrite the security of that monopoly in all our efforts? We are supposed to pour in Lend-Lease funds, and probably fight a war in the Pacific as I think we are going to do, only to preserve intact a monopoly over raw materials which would remain completely in the hands of other nations, even though friendly nations.

BRITISH BOARED UP AFTER THE LAST WAR After the last war the British put the Stevenson rubber restriction plan into effect and undertook to make us pay through the nose. It produced a very unpleasant situation.

Intentionally can make very ugly up as one who flatters. I bring it up as one who flatters. I bring it up as one who flatters. I bring it up as one who flatters.

The future world must have the joint leadership of the United States and Great Britain. These powers must guide the rebuilding of the community of nations.

Recombined strength is essential to such an effort. Division would be fatal.

We are merging a war effort through Lend-Lease. The peace effort must be merged in the same way. We should not merely underwrite with the monopoly of the British Empire over raw materials which are essential to protect our own interests and to maintain the necessary solid Anglo-American front after the war.

Visitin' Around

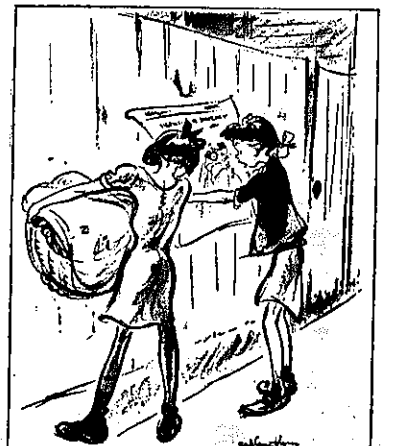
Well, That's One Way (Midway Island) (Midway Island) (Midway Island)

Carroll Hains left recently for Detroit, Mich., to accept a job secured by his brother, Kenneth Hains.

Reedwood Nolewood (Reedy Creek Inn, Lexington Dispatch)

Mrs. J. G. Reedwood, who had the misfortune of being caught in the storm some time ago, does not seem to be improving very much.

Side Glances



"When I get married I'm going to have breakfast in bed, a French maid, a butler with an English accent—and maybe I'll even have a nervous breakdown!"