THE CHARLOTTE NEWS

And Evening Chronicle

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● W. C. Dowd, 1865-1937 ●

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SUNDAY, MARCH 17, 1940

Third Terms

They Can Be A Lot Less Harmful Than First Terms

In letters to the editor this week about a third term for President Roosevelt, many people have viewed with alarm the possibility of a dictatorship. It seems to us, trying to view the case objectively, that eight years' experience with a President who has done his best to preserve the civil liberties that are so essential to democracy is an acceptable guarantee of his lack of such an ambition.

As much, however, cannot be said of some of his enthusiastic disciples in this part of the country. Dictatorship, perhaps, was furthest from their minds, but in the motions they went through it was perilously close.

The primary move in establishing a dictatorship is to suspend civil processes by force. That, precisely, was what New Deal worshipper Governor Olin Johnston of South Carolina did when he took over the highway department by show of arms. And that, precisely, is what New Deal worshipper Governor Rivers of Georgia has done, only he has gone to greater extremes of defiance.

He has defied his State courts and he has defied the Federal courts. He has pardoned officers of the National Guard who were sentenced to imprisonment for flouting court orders. He has said, quite frankly, that as governor of Georgia he does not propose to have a highway commissioner using that office to advance his campaign for the governorship, and that he will kick him out, courts or no courts.

Third terms, it may be, are unwise, but first terms for men who brook no limitation upon their authority are worse by far.

Resurgam!

Even St. John's Is Still Haunted By Old Adam

What the authorities of St. John's College think about it, we don't know. But they are great on the notion of discipline, and so it is quite possible that they learn with a certain gloomy sadness that a student has stolen the clapper from the college bell.

But for ourselves, it leaves us with a decided sensation of relief. Not that we altogether lack sympathy with the St. John's program of educating the young men in its halls by instructing them exclusively in the Hundred Greatest Authors. It *was* about time that somebody began to make American education something more than the acquisition of a vague smattering of knowledge concerning a hash of, say, the rock sculptures at Abu-Simbel and Practical Exporting, as an incidental to four years of enthusiastic devotion to football and the Greek letter fraternities.

Nevertheless, we had had our fears, lest young men fed too exclusively on a diet of Hobbes' *Leviathan*, the *Summa Theologica* of Thomas Aquinas, the *Conics* of Appolonius, and the *Institutes* of John Calvin, might not turn out in the end to be a little on the solemn and juiceless side.

But apparently it was ourselves who were too solemn. The Old Adam turns out to be irrepressible and quite able to take care of himself, thankee. Of course, it was not done in the really grand manner of stabling Prexy's horse on the belfry, but considering our degenerate times and St. John's it will serve.

Off Moment

An Admirable Judge Permits Himself An Unworthy Mood

The "portrait in type" of Judge H. Hoyle Sink, to be found elsewhere in this issue of The News, makes him out a fair and square man whom wrongdoers dread, lawyers have to respect and newspaper men admire for his forthrightness. With this characterization we have no argument — indeed, the assignment was at our suggestion.

But even a fair and square man can err, and we think that Judge Sink erred lavishly in his treatment of the superintendent of the Morrison Training School, a reformatory for Negroes.

The circumstances were these. Judge Burgwyn, holding court here last December, had ordered the school to receive a boy and to hold him for an indeterminate period. The superintendent denied him admittance, writing Mecklenburg officials that he had no space for him, no bed.

Judge Sink, when the matter came before him, was furious. He threatened to cite the man for contempt because he had replied to the court order by letter instead of putting in a personal appearance. He overrode with contemptuous impatience of his own the man's recital of overcrowded conditions at the institution. He waved aside the statute setting forth that authority over admissions to the reformatory was conferred on its superintendent (by the same State that commissions Superior Court judges to administer its laws).

And finally he sent the man packing, the boy in his charge, with the command to make room if there was no room and the advice hereafter to appeal contraventions of his legal authority if he did not like it.

A fair and square man, Judge Sink is portrayed. Being such, he may be bound to conclude upon re-examining his action in this case that a white judge was unduly hard on a Negro superintendent, and that one State official, sworn to uphold the law, arbitrarily overrode the rights of another.

Carol's Turn

Hitler Moves To Absorb Rumania Without A Fight

It has been done so stealthily, under cover of the world's absorption in other matters, particularly the surrender of Finland, that its import has hardly been realized. But in fact Adolf Hitler has actively begun his assault on Rumania.

Characteristically, the move opens with sanctimonious professions of tender concern for Rumania. Mr. Hitler "intervenes" for his intended victim and "pledges" Soviet Russia not to eat the little Balkan until he gives the word. Then he turns on Rumania and demands that she "repay" him for all this exceeding kindness by:

1—Virtually demobilizing the 1,600,000 Rumanian troops now under arms.

2—Giving the Nazis "guidance" of Rumanian agriculture and industry so that they can be "accelerated to an unprecedented degree." That is, handing over economic control of the nation to the Nazis.

3—Giving the Nazis a virtual monopoly on exports of oil, cereals, and other supplies.

4—Admission of a member of the Iron Guard (the Rumanian Nazi Party) to the cabinet of King Carol.

Whoever remembers the fate of Czechoslovakia will understand that this is a scheme for absorbing Rumania without the trouble and risk of fighting for it. It is exactly the same fate Adolf Hitler has in mind for all the Balkans, including Turkey. And for France and Scandinavia and The Netherlands and Belgium and Switzerland.

Vain Bid

Ireland Proposes A Bit Of Oppression Of Its Own

When Eamon de Valera was "president" of an outlawed Irish Republic, when the memory of the execution of Padraic Pearse was still new, when Ireland was fighting for her liberty and had just complaint against the long English oppression — in those days Mr. de Valera could and did get the sympathy and the active aid of Americans.

But he is not likely to get much of either for his latest appeal, save from Irish-Americans of the Green persuasion and from professional British-baiters. What he wants is "active moral support" from Americans for the Irish Republic's scheme to "end the dismemberment of Ireland."

That last innocent-sounding phrase, however, hides a project for oppression which would have done credit to Cromwell himself. What is proposed is the taking over of Northern Ireland, which is now a part of the United Kingdom. But the great majority of Northern Irishmen are dead against that.

They are Orangemen, which is to say Protestant Irishmen. For centuries they have fought their Catholic brethren in the south, and the last thing they want is to be united with them — as a minority group. They are satisfied with their present political status, and it is doubtful that they would submit to having it changed — even if England agreed — without bloodshed.

Mr. de Valera, though he has been often in America, does not seem quite to understand the nature of America's view of what causes are entitled to its "moral support."

In turbulent Louisiana, the fall of Huey's dynasty is finally complete. And no one thought to headline it, "at long last."

Letters to the Editor:

One Danger Of The Third Term

Dear Sir:

President Washington reluctantly accepted the second but declined the third term for personal reasons. President Jefferson, without a doubt, could have been reelected for a third term but declined, not for personal reasons, but because he felt it incompatible with the public interest.

Thus a tradition was formed which has never been broken since the ratification of the Constitution. The breach of such would be quite hard for the American public.

No, President Roosevelt ought not to run for a third term.

A third term for any President would jeopardize the doctrine of Separation of Powers — the powers of our Government divided into three separate groups, the Executive (the President), the Legislative (Congress) and the Judicial (the Federal Courts). This doctrine is so designed by the Constitution that one power may counterbalance and check either of the other two. All three will stay within equitable bounds.

But what has this to do with the third term of the President? Simply this. Should a President remain in office for twelve years, quite likely he would have a chance to fill the Supreme Court with a greater number of justices who will think and do just as he does. With the aid of his party in both Houses of Congress drastic acts can be enacted, yet declared Constitutional by the Supreme Court.

Should this happen, there would be little chance for one power to counterbalance and check either of the other two—therefore the purpose of the doctrine of Separation of Powers has failed.

This may not happen in Mr. Roosevelt's Administration; but should it be re-elected for a third term he would break this historical tradition and thus lower the bars for some other person who has ambition to become a dictator.

—HENRY I. BRYANT.

Pineville.

Too Long Retention Of Power A Bad Thing

Dear Sir:

This question is, to use a slang expression, not only the talk of the town, but the talk of the nation today. The question of whether President Roosevelt will seek a third term, and if he does, will he get a third term?

By using the following points I shall try to prove to you that this would be an unwise procedure:

1. No one man is indispensable in a democracy.

2. A third term President is a step toward dictatorship.

3. There is tradition against the third term, and it has been built up by the people themselves.

People fear power, and almost any man who holds for twelve years the highest position in the greatest nation in the world will gain more power than one could possibly imagine. Bruce Barton tells us that no greater fault could be found with Roosevelt than his power. He further states that something seems to happen to the human mind when its owner is endowed with unlimited powers and lives daily in an atmosphere of acquiescence.

Jefferson feared that the doctrine of any one man being indispensable to a party would undermine our democratic institutions and lead to one-man rule. He criticized the Constitution because it did not limit the number of terms that a President could hold. He wrote that "the first Magistrate will always be re-elected if he wants to be re-elected. He is then an officer for life."

In short, Jefferson believed fully in a change of Presidents. If we accept the third-termers arguments that it's "the same President again or run," we'll weaken democracy's main principle of "government by and for the people."

In the case of President Roosevelt, the social security program, and other reform measures also will be preserved even if Roosevelt gets no third term.

—EDYTHE AGERTON.

Box 1,
Pageland, S. C.

Same Pilot Needed If Prosperity To Last

Dear Sir:

The question, should President Roosevelt run for a third term, seems foolish in this section of the country, which is studded with textile, hosiery and furniture plants.

I don't think the people have forgotten the dark and dismal days before the New Deal when millions of unemployed did not know where their next meal was coming from. When the highways and freight trains were filled with transients, like herds of cattle, hunting greener grass in a drought, and the farmer's crops did not bring enough to pay for the fertilizer he used.

Those who were lucky enough to be employed had to do their tasks for starvation wages, without time off for enjoyment. Cotton mills were paying as low as 2 cents an hour and working 55 to 60 hours a week with employees not having any right to unionize.

People who were lucky enough to have a little money saved back for old age and sickness, stood in front of closed bank buildings, wondering where their next dims was coming from.

Railroads, banks, insurance companies, building and loan associations, states and municipalities faced ruin and bankruptcy, 15,000,000 people unemployed. Panic and fear ran over the world. Franklin D. Roosevelt took office and from that day on America started to rise once more. Life was brought back to a hundred and thirty million people. Once again the industries started to run. Former lawyers, doctors, merchants, capitalists, workers, were once again on the road to prosperity. And the only way to stay on that road is to keep the ship on the same course. To do this, we must retain the same pilot — the honorable Franklin D. Roosevelt, truly a successor to Washington and Lincoln.

—ARNOLD E. TAMM.

Lincolnton.

Mrs. Sanders Wins Third Term Prize

Winner of the $5 prize for the best letter to the editor of The News on the theme of the third term is Mrs. C. R. Sanders, Box 172, Kings Mountain. A check goes forward to Mrs. Sanders. Her letter will be found on this page today.

The News desires to call attention of its readers to the fact that another prize contest for letters is now in progress. Prize will be $5. Subject is:

Which has the greater chance of success, a boy raised in the city, or a boy raised in the country?

Contest began last Friday, will close at noon, Saturday, March 23. Letters to be eligible for the prize must reach this office before the latter time, should not exceed 300 words, must be printed over the correct name and street or rural address of the writers.

Time Is Needed To Carry Out FR's Plan

Dear Sir:

Roosevelt should run for a third term, because:

1. The people want him, that great host of common folks.

2. It will give him the time to build the people into one great nation.

3. Roosevelt has a plan and the courage to put his plan into operation. His plan includes all the people.

4. Roosevelt will liberate the poor people from their distressing living conditions, just as Lincoln set free the slaves.

God was with Lincoln in the working out of his plans and He is with Roosevelt in his plan. If God is with him, who of us can be against him?

5. Among the critics of our President are some good, honest folks but they have no such plan as he has. Good men were against Lincoln, Lee, Jackson, Davis and others but neither did they have any plans.

We know now that Lincoln was right.

In a few years we will know that Roosevelt is right.

—T. J. BAGWELL.

Route 2,
Forest City.

Only Roosevelt Can Carry Out His Work

Dear Sir:

By all means, President Roosevelt should run for a third term, and a fourth term too, if his leadership is still needed when the time comes.

There is no one capable of filling his place. "No man living is knee-high to him," said Ex-Governor George Earle of Pennsylvania. He is God's appointed messenger, sent in the fullness of time to heal America's canker of social injustice and build a new order founded on human brotherhood. Eight years are not long enough for the accomplishment of this stupendous task.

Washington founded the Union, Lincoln preserved it, and Franklin D. Roosevelt rebuilt it—so shall the future students of history be taught. President Roosevelt took the helm in a time of crisis as serious as that which challenged Abraham Lincoln and Joan of Arc. His achievements in these seven years have been little short of miraculous. Much as he has accomplished, however, much yet remains to be done; and only he can do it. He is needed more than ever now, not only to steer America successfully along the course which he has charted, but at a time when Europe is at war, to preserve our neutrality and to hold up the torch of democracy to guide the rest of the world.

When George Washington declined a third term, he was in his 65th year, with only three more years of life ahead of him; and he followed his inclination for retirement because the times were no longer critical and he felt that he could be spared.

We have not a parallel situation today. The times demand a third term for President Roosevelt.

—ALICE McFARLAND.

1223 Camp Greene Avenue,
Charlotte.

George's Words Are Not Binding On Us

Dear Sir:

Ought President Roosevelt to run again? Let's look at some facts! What is to prevent him running again? Lack of inclination? A precedent set by Washington? We must ignore all different reasons, relative to the second: Washington, it has been said, suggested no man should be President longer than two terms. But there is some written proof that he didn't care that way about it at all. But if he did believe it, does that make it true?

Remember he believed in owning slaves. Slave-owning went with changing times. Why not let opposition to third terms go with them?

Wouldn't it be silly to suggest that a President of a big business retire at the end of eight years? He has hardly begun to learn the business. Is the President of the U. S. faced with problems any less complex? By the end of eighteen years he has made a fair beginning toward learning his job.

Who raises all the hubbub about the third terms? The people? Heck no! It is the politicians. Mainly Congressmen and Senators. Why do they want him to retire? They say, "To give others a chance, for one thing." Then, why don't our dear Congressmen and Senators retire? They have over 400 jobs to the President's one. They argue they know their jobs and their influence increases over the years. Maybe the same would hold true in this third term idea.

If the sole responsibility rested on your shoulders of picking the next President and you couldn't pick Roosevelt, which man do you honestly believe would be big enough for the job?

I don't believe President Roosevelt could be beaten unless the precedent of two terms is turned into a kind of religion. Shall we allow what Washington said to cheat us out of the service of a good man?

What chance does a President have of making the Presidency a permanent job if he must come before the people every four years? We can and will reject him when we are dissatisfied with his ability.

—MRS. C. R. SANDERS.

Box 172,
Kings Mountain.

The Prize Letter

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—MRS. C. R. SANDERS.

Box 172,
Kings Mountain.

He Owes It To The People To Run

Dear Sir:

Yes, I think President Roosevelt ought to run for a third term. The majority will vote for him if he runs.

He is the nation's most loved and most trusted man. The people want him for a third term but cannot elect him if he does not run.

—HOYLE POTTER.

Route 2,
Gaffney.

About Laundries, Worship, Sinfulness Of Third Term

Dear Sir:

The seamstress, or ironer, in a laundry will not touch a garment until it is laundered and clean. That is the way with God. He will not touch a people until they clean up, and a people cannot clean up without a clean government.

A clean government is after the order of Brotherhood, or Godhead. Let each man be fully assured in his own mind.

Brotherhood in planting cotton is each man being assured in minding his own mind as to just how much to plant. While they are all brothern in planting, each plants accordingly as his own mind dictates.

Before man can enter Christian worship he must clean, or laundry, himself. He must join the Brotherhood. Brotherhood had an antonym until Mr. Roosevelt brought the New Deal.

And since Mr. Roosevelt worships with all his New Deal, living and producing destruction to Brotherhood, he is an idol worshipper, while Washington and the other founders were Christian worshipers.

Mr. Roosevelt should not run for a third term and keep idol worship and Christian worship confused before the people.

—WAVERLY RUDISILL.

Iron Station.

Third Term Would Make Way Easier For Dictator

Dear Sir:

President Roosevelt has many excellent qualities. Undoubtedly he has planned needed reforms, though some may question his wisdom in putting them into effect. One must admire him for his forthright address to the convention of the Youth Congress in Washington and be indignant at the treatment accorded him by his audience of ill-mannered young people.

But a third term! Is it wise?

Let us forget the attempt to pack the Supreme Court, the purges, the linking of politics with relief, the mounting deficit, and concentrate on that opening door to dictatorship represented by a third term. It will form a precedent for some ruthless man, the way eased by the centralization of Government at Washington now under way—and he will not be the kindly Franklin D. Roosevelt.

We are at the crossroads.

—M. M. EASTTY.

Charlotte.

Greatest Man Since Jesus, He Thinks

Dear Sir:

Space could not possibly be provided for me to state all my reasons for favoring Roosevelt for a third term.

Therefore, I will have to briefly summarize:

1. FDR is the greatest man ever born, except the world's Messiah. His followers number infinitely more, since the population of the world exceeds that of Christ's day.

2. His leadership is comparable to that of Moses. As the tiny babe was hidden among the bullrushes in the willow basket, so protection has been afforded to this matchless leader of ours in a world gone mad with lust and power.

In the first place, let me say that I have been to "Baker" twice in the old Blueback Spelling Book. Why, I couldn't write my own name until I was nineteen years of age. But I am sure of one thing: this man Roosevelt has done more for the poor, suffering and down-trodden humanity than any other man living during my age and generation. He is a God-sent man and numbers friends and supporters from one tip of this country to the other.

3. He came as a Moses to lead us out of bondage. We weren't our homes being advertised and sold for taxes, our family car or truck, used to haul produce to the market, standing up against the sheriff for non-payment of license taxes? It is a fact now that cars are circulating freely on all highways, and as for taxes I find it easier now to pay them than my father did. My dad had a little farm and his taxes amounted to $600 a year, and during Cleveland's Administration he couldn't meet the payment and was double-taxed as a result.

Our President has been a friend to the poor—he has not done anything to hurt the rich. He only does he put the keys to the White House in his pockets, but he also carries enough votes to put him across for President again. Try and stop him, if you can. The Democratic Party had better listen to his counsel; if he will consent to be our leader for another four years, let's put him where he rightfully belongs—at the head of this great Government in the Capitol in Washington, D. C.

—G. A. ELLIS.

407 W. Marion Street,
Shelby.

Pros And Cons Of Conflicting Claims

Dear Sir:

With a question like the third term facing the people, many ideas and doubts enter into what the people offer their answer to the question without considering the pros and cons of the situation.

The Roosevelt people put forward the claim that he is necessary to peace and that he saved the depression of 1932. The anti-Roosevelt people retaliate by claiming that the national debt is well past the danger mark, that the Roosevelt Administration is only a two-faced bluff, and that even months more of this regime will bring destruction.

Let us return to the record of history. The Republicans played hob with our prosperity in the Administrations of Taft, Harding, Coolidge, and Hoover. But those who yell that the Democrats always bring prosperity must not forget the panic just after Jackson's unscrupulous reign, or the national disaster which fell in Cleveland's second term.

As to the third termers who yell that Roosevelt will keep us out of war, I would like to say that no people either want to keep us from war, once public opinion is aroused. Wilson was elected to his second term on a peace platform.

And finally, we need the budget balanced, and I don't think the Roosevelt Administration will ever do it.

Therefore, we must look to a Higher Power to guide us to do what will most help us.

—HENRY L. BERRYHILL JR.

Route 5,
Charlotte.

Praises President For Shorter Work Hours

Dear Sir:

Yes, I think Mr. Roosevelt should run for a third time, because I do not think any other man could take his place and do for the country what he has done. He is a friend of the poor people (of whom I am one).

And he sure has made my life more pleasant for me by cutting down on our working hours. I am a widow and have to work away from home, and those few hours less work each day mean so much to me. I think he understands people better than any President we have ever had. I know my vote for him count much, but he sure will have that.

—MRS. ETHEL WISDOM.

417 East 17th Street,
Charlotte.

(More Letters on Next Page)

An Allied Defeat?

By Dorothy Thompson

MR. ROOSEVELT praises the valor of the Finns and says "the ending of this war does not yet clarify the inherent right of small nations to the maintenance of their integrity." This column differs with the President. Whatever is proved or is not proved, the position of small nations in the world as it is at present is clarified. They have no position.

Now, let's take a look at the general situation. Wall Street regards this as a great German-Russian victory. It is betting that the Germans or the Russians will win the war. This fact greatly encourages this column, which was also very depressed concerning the larger issues. For Wall Street's betting has been so uniformly wrong in the last six years that its defeatism over the Allies ought to make stocks go up in London and Paris. Wall Street was betting in June that there was not going to be any war.

This is unquestionably a victory for Russia. Whether it is a victory for Germany is a moot question. If it is, one wonders why peace waves are emanating from Berlin with such continuity. If the presumption is that Russia is interested in a German victory over the Allies, then this presumption of a gain for Germany is valid. But why Russia should be interested in a German victory is incomprehensible to this column.

RUSSIA IS NOW MASTER OF THE BALTIC

Russia now controls the Baltic. The Russian troops had broken the Mannerheim Line, the first demonstration made in this war that fortified lines of the type of the Maginot Line and the West Wall can be crashed. She could have taken the whole of Finland. She preferred to take all the critically strategical areas and take Finland into her security system, in which are included Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania. Under the terms of the non-aggression pact, which is part of the treaty and which is similar to the treaties concluded with the other Baltic states, Finland must go to the aid of Russia if Russia is attacked by any major power. This includes Germany.

It is clear that Russia did not wish to become involved in a war between Germany and the Western Allies. If she had become involved in the war, it would have had to be on the side of Germany. Therefore, she preferred to make peace.

And so did Germany prefer to make peace. Had Germany desired that the war should be taken into the Scandinavian Peninsula, where her advantages for landing troops are immeasurably better than those of the Allies, she would not have sent an ultimatum to Sweden and brought pressure to bear upon Norway. She would have let events take their course and intervened at the advantageous moment.

And had the Allies, out of sympathy for Finland, taken on a war with Soviet Russia on a terrain which is very unfavorable for them, they would have had to fight both Germany and Russia, and it is questionable whether they would have won it.

WILL SCANDINAVIA TURN TO HITLER?

Sweden, Norway and Finland are now discussing a Scandinavian pact. What kind of pact will this be? Will it be a pact for the strictest maintenance of Scandinavian neutrality, or will these nations all look to Germany for protection and come into the German sphere of influence? If they do the latter they will no longer be strictly neutral, and it is a question whether Britain and France will feel themselves required to regard their neutrality as real neutrality. The Scandinavian Peninsula, having yielded to the threat of force on the part of Germany and Russia and refused to accept Allied aid, may go on yielding to threats of force. But the Allies' moral position is excellent. Nobody, including the Swedes and the Norwegians, believed that Britain and France would ever turn Sweden and Norway into another Czechoslovakia or Finland. The national interests of the Scandinavian Peninsula are still with the Allies, not with Germany and Russia. If Russia stands pat, on a treaty negotiated with Germany's aid, what excuse will Germany have to make further demands on Scandinavia?

Meanwhile the people of the United States will be glad to welcome Mr. Sumner Welles back home, and will be relieved to hear that the President is not prepared to be the protagonist in a super-Munich. There are some bright boys around the President who think it would be just swell if he could duplicate T. R.'s performance at Portsmouth, when that other Roosevelt settled the Russo-Japanese War. Then he would go out of office as a great peacemaker.

Visitin' Around

Okay, J. J. But What You Gonna Do With That Hay After You Sell The Hay Burner?

(Adv., Catawba News-Enterprise)

FOR SALE—Good young Jersey cow. Want to purchase some baled lespedeza hay. J. J. Barringer, Conover.

Lee Roy Ain't Gonna Be Left Behind

(Bluff Items, Marshall News-Record)

Mr. Owen Gillespie of Bluff has joined the navy.

Mr. Hugh Lankford of Bluff has joined the army.

Mr. Lee Roy Lankford has joined the CCC camp.