THE CHARLOTTE NEWS

And Evening Chronicle

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Idealist's Pal

This Name Jars In Talk Of Liberty And Freedom

Washington hears now that Jimmy Cromwell, Doris Duke's husband and minister to Canada, will resign and run for the Senate from New Jersey. Jimmy got in hot water at the State Department, as everybody knows, by making an undiplomatic speech in which he said that the Allies were fighting to preserve individual liberty and freedom.

The State Department doesn't, in all likelihood, disagree with what Jimmy said. It merely denies one of its agents the right to make so partial a public statement.

If Jimmy does resign and run for the Senate as a New Jersey Democrat, it will have to be with the blessing. If he hopes to get anywhere, of Boss Hague, mayor of Jersey City and vice-chairman of the Democratic National Committee. They have talked it over before.

And it is one of the absurdities of this thing we call Democracy that a man like Jimmy, with such awelling ideals about liberty and freedom and decency and all that, could team up with a man like Hague, who is a symbol in this country of corruption, graft and rule by ring. Yet the deal, if it is consummated, will be evident on its face—the votes of Boss Hague and his minions in return for some of the Cromwell-Duke jack.

Jimmy's aims are honorable, we may concede; but, ah, the company he will have to keep is hardly wholesome.

In Earnest

Norway Means Its Protest Against British Trespass

Norway's note to London citing the violation of neutral waters by British warships, is probably in all respects a highly earnest protest. What Norway wants most of all is to continue at peace, and if this precarious state be further jeopardized by the trespassing of British torpedo boats over into Norwegian waters, it must be stopped.

Stopped, that is, not for the reason that Norwegian lives or property are endangered by these actions, or even because Norwegian interests are directly threatened. Not by Britain, at any rate. After all, a nation which sends its ships into your territorial waters and there sinks the enemy's ships may be violating your status as a neutral, but a nation which sinks your own ships, wherever it catches them, is much more to be feared.

Some 500,000 tons of neutral shipping has been sent to the bottom since this war began. By far the greater portion of it was Scandinavian, and it met disaster almost entirely at the hands of the German navy and air force.

This violent treatment of a neutral is not to be compared with Britain's non-malicious trespass, yet it explains, precisely, the Norwegian note. That could well have read: "In Heaven's name stay out of our neighborhood! It may infuriate Herr Adolf against us."

Puny Victory

The People's Law Gets Ahead Of The People's Behavior

Judge Ervin, in his opinion on slot machines last week, not only turned thumbs down on the contraptions but put his foot-down on them too. Judge Howard's ruling in County Recorder's Court had been that the machines might be operated, even if equipped to pay off, provided they were not connected to pay off. Judge Ervin went further than that.

If they were "adaptable" at all to pay off, or bore any combination of numbers or symbols that hinted of reward, they were illegal.

To us who have escaped the lure of the slot machine in all its gaudy phases, the decision is a wholly abstract development. Its chief effect would seem to be the saving of many nickels and dimes to the gullible who, out of the kindness of their hearts or their trusting optimism, stand before these tables and manipulate the plungers for 50 cents' worth, usually while snatching a 15-cent lunch.

There seems not to have developed along with slot machines, as with liquor and the butter 'n' eggs, an unholy concentration of money and power in the worst hands. To the contrary, the business appears to have been lucrative enough and respectable enough to afford considerable competition, and for that reason lacked the sinister aspect that has brought the other two forms of entertainment into disrepute.

Nevertheless, it is wise to keep perspective in these brushes between the law and man's old, unabating urge to gamble. Truth of the matter is that slot machines, while they may have given encouragement to a minor vice, were not in themselves essentially vicious. The further truth is, perhaps, that here again our public morality, as expressed by law, is away ahead of our private morality, as expressed in the codes of the people who make up the public.

Still, to us, who have never seen the fun of the danged things, it is entirely agreeable that they be banished from their stands. But it remains a distinctly minor triumph for the forces of righteousness.

Who's This?

Advance, John Garner, And Give The Countersign

Whoever puts over old Jack Garner as a burning Liberal is going to have a whale of a job on his hands. Senator Morris Sheppard, a fellow Texan, had a try at it in a speech delivered Saturday night, and the picture he painted was of a statesman panting for the people to enjoy all the benefits government might bestow on them, but cautioning "make haste slowly" lest impetuousness imperil the program.

In the sense that a "Liberal" is a person who believes in playing fast and loose with other people's money, old John has, it is true, a record of sorts. When President Hoover was trying to hold appropriations in bound, back there during the first days of the depression, it was Speaker Garner of the House who insisted (a) on an excessive number of millions for the relief of the drought-ridden farmers of Arkansas, and (b) came down from the dais to harangue against the only tax in sight that might have balanced the budget that year and others.

John Garner has his points, and they are points that may be admitted to give him standing for the Presidency. He's wealthy in his own name, which is equivalent to having "met a pay roll." He's a strong party man, which means that he would help other Democrats, regardless of their stamp, get elected. To John L. Lewis, it is true, he's an "evil, whisky-drinking old man;" but, still, he goes to bed early, and the lack of an endorsement from the head of CIO is no drawback in quite a few quarters.

But a leader in the fight for Liberalism? Advance, John Garner, and be recognized.

New Assets

A Hard-Pressed Treasury Could Sell Its Souvenirs

The Government draws a sharp line between Congressmen who award postmaterships for political services rendered and Congressmen who award postmaterships for cash on the line. It's all right for a Congressman to bestow this plum on some faithful campaigner, all wrong to sell the job for money, even for campaign funds.

And so Representative B. Frank Whelchel of the Ninth Georgia is under a Federal indictment on seven counts. He is charged with having accepted $1,100 each for appointing two rural mail carriers at Ball Ground, Ga., $500 for the postmastership at Tate, Ga., and $1,500 for his promise to deliver the postmastership also at Ball Ground, Ga.

The remarkable thing about these alleged transactions is not that a Congressman would stoop to such practices — among a body of 435 men (and 96 supermen) a few dishonest ones are almost certain to be found. No, the remarkable thing is the prices that rural routes and less choice postmaterships are bringing in the market.

There probably hasn't been so much money offered for anything in rural Georgia since Gerald O'Hara went to Atlanta and bought a set of house slaves for his mistress at Tara. Why, the Government is downright rich! With thousands and thousands of postmaterships at its disposal, some of them prime, and with $500 to $1,000 the prevailing price for culls, Mr. Morgenthau may yet find a way to pay the cost of the New Deal.

With the Yankees reported up for sale, and stock offered in the Walt Disney Enterprises, a shopper is liable to come home these days with a young left-hander and a duck.

A Battery Breaks Up

By Raymond Clapper

WASHINGTON—The third-term controversy within the Democratic party apparently is moving into a new phase.

The signal comes in the following statement made by Postmaster General Farley:

"My name will be presented to the convention at Chicago, and that's that."

Mr. Roosevelt's campaign manager has crossed the Rubicon. He has thus publicly signalized his intention of opposing President Roosevelt in the nominating convention should the third-term question arise. Mr. Farley is assuming that the President will not run, but at the same time he is giving notice that if a third-term nomination is attempted he will fight it.

Intimate friends of the Postmaster General have expected for some time that he would take that position. In certain private conversations he is understood to have said he would refuse to go along on a third term. He now indicates as much publicly.

OLD BEER HALL HE SAY NUTHIN'

Vice-President Garner is the only other Democrat who has said he will be a candidate for the nomination regardless of who else runs. Senator Wheeler and Paul V. McNutt have said they would step aside if Mr. Roosevelt declared the nomination. Secretary Hull has said nothing and has refused to sanction any activity in his behalf, although others are working to bring about his nomination.

Chairman Farley has put at rest rumors that he was a stalking horse for the President. He had understood long ago that Mr. Roosevelt would not run and had expected a definite statement to that effect from the White House long before this.

Chairman Farley has had nothing to do with the third-term activity conducted by a number of these in the Administration. He has been deeply hurt by the treatment he has received at the hands of the President. His friends have frequently repeated statements attributed to the President to the effect that the religious issue made Mr. Farley unavailable on the ticket. In response to this accusation, Mr. Roosevelt has now disavowed the statement, after a lapse of two weeks.

A PARTY DIVIDED AGAINST ITSELF

In the situation now developing there are the possibilities of a major explosion which could split the Democratic Party to its foundations, and which can be avoided only if Mr. Roosevelt does not run.

Mr. Farley is still chairman of the Democratic National Committee and can continue in that office until after the nomination convention. He is still a member of the President's Cabinet, but he might feel that his resignation was in order if he became convinced that Mr. Roosevelt intended to run. It is a good guess that he would resign as Postmaster General and continue in his post as National Chairman through the convention, because it is a strategic position.

Vice-President Garner is opposed to a third term, and his candidacy is mainly for the purpose of blocking the President's renomination.

With the Vice-President of the United States and the Chairman of the Democratic Party opposing renomination of the President, how could Mr. Roosevelt go into a third-term campaign with any prospect of a united party?

The President's popularity overshadows that of anyone else in the party. But it is a question how much of this popularity reaches over into support of a third term.

Mr. Billopp:

The Blast

You wake up in the middle of the night. And you try to go back to sleep, but you can't. You count sheep going over the fence. You figure the days that remain before it will be warm enough to let the furnace go out. And still you can't get back to sleep.

Our thing is certain. You mustn't wake her up. It isn't fair to her. When you shift from side to side you do it gradually, inch by inch, without making a sound. Meanwhile you are a great square stone being "moved" by thousands of Egyptian slaves to take your permanent place in one of the pyramids of Ghizeh.

You hear the clocks downstairs strike 3 A. M. and the half-hour and 4 A. M. Suddenly the realization comes to you that you want to sneeze. You could prevent it by blowing your nose. But you would have to search for your handkerchief and the noise of that and the blowing would surely wake her up.

You press a finger hard against your upper lip, which postpones the sneeze temporarily. You try psychology, saying to yourself, "Sneeze? Ridiculous. I'm not going to sneeze." You try to frighten yourself out of the sneeze by picturing your shame and mortification all of tomorrow for having disturbed her by sneezing in the middle of the night.

Just the same, that tickle persists. You fight against it with all your might and main, but to no avail. The situation passes out of your control and you give way to a loud "A-tchoo!"

She rouses with a start. "Are you awake?" she asks. You admit, drowsily, that you are. She says, "Did you hear that explosion?" You say, "I heard something." She says, "It felt like an earthquake. What could it have been?" And you say, drowsily, that a motor-mobile backfiring on the way up the hill."

—CHRISTOPHER BILLOPP.

The Farm Problem

—By Herblock

Letters to the Editor:

Sudden Defense Of Tolerance

Dear Sir:

In the spirit of tolerance, may I not ask if it is not a little intolerant, in your editorial, "Manager Wanted," under date March 21, 1940, to unnecessarily emphasize that "Mr. Farley is a Catholic"? Is a man to be criticized or kept out of office, when he is a man of intelligence, character, and ability, simply because of his religion? Or rather, should we not take the view of Apostle Paul when he said in Romans 1:14, "I am debtor both to the Greeks, and to the barbarians; both to the wise, and the unwise."

There is an old saying, "Eaten bread is soon forgotten," and lest we forget, the South should remember that it was the Catholic leadership of New York that was largely responsible for taking the heel of the tyrant off of our backs, helped to abolish the rule of carpetbaggers in North Carolina and the South and was very materially responsible for the South's being restored to its citizenship in the nation after 1876.

Chief Justice White of the United States Supreme Court was appointed to this high and important office, as I remember, by President Taft. Our own Associate Justice of the Supreme Court of North Carolina, Judge Gaston, was a distinguished citizen and a Catholic. President Taft himself was a Unitarian.

Personally, I hold no brief for any denomination, sect, or creed. If a man believes in the Virgin Birth of Jesus Christ, in His sacrificial atonement, and honors Deity, I think he is a pretty good man.

In this present hour when the world is submerged in blood and strife, it is not a time for religious bigotry. In fact, I do not think there ever is a time when sectarianism merits a place in American life.

The world owes an incalculable debt to all religions, and primarily, in my opinion, to the Christian religion. The leaders of the Catholic Church, like all creeds, sects, and denominations, have made their mistakes, but the world has received many blessings from this denomination. Had it not been for St. Augustine and his fervent religious ardor, our ancestors would not have received the teachings of Christ as early as they did.

I respect any man who believes in the fundamental principles of the American Constitution, the teachings of Holy Writ, is willing to defend the American flag, and honors womanhood.

The nation, and especially the Democratic Party, is greatly indebted to Jim Farley and he should have gratitude shown him, and if the Democratic convention sees fit to honor him, he is entitled to it.

—COLONEL T. L. KIRKPATRICK.
Charlotte.

(Note: Colonel Kirkpatrick either prefers to blink the facts of religious prejudice in politics, else felt a declamation coming on that he could find no other excuse to deliver. The reference to Jim Farley was phrased so as not to permit of any misunderstanding, and in itself calls for no such heroic defense of tolerance as this above.

The reference: It mentioned Jim Farley's religion in connection with his Presidential aspirations, and went on to say:

"Al Smith could tell him something about the wrong religious label in a country that was founded on religious tolerance."—Editors, The News.)

What's Best And Worst About U. S. Democracy?

This week's question in The News letters contest is to inform that it will go into a headline. It is an important question, however, and ought to produce illuminating answers.

The usual price of $5 will be paid for the best letter received before noon on Saturday, March 30. Letters should run not more than 300 words, and must be printed over the names and addresses of their writers.

And by all means write early, since letters which are received a few at a time early in the week are bound to have closer attention than those which come in batches towards the weekend.

American Business Likened To A Puppet Show

Dear Sir:

I imagine the majority of us have at one time or another seen a puppet show, where one or two operators pull strings to make the images go through their different maneuvers.

Does this not apply to the average American of today? We who are supposed to be living in a land that is based on freedom of speech, freedom of the press and general equality? I should tell you it does.

We have (the census tells us) about 130,000,000 Americans living in America. And we have also about 130 families in America that control the wealth of this great country of ours. Are they not the ones who pull the strings that make the puppets dance? Let's see.

We are told that there is enough food for everyone, yet there are those who are hungry. We have a bountiful supply of fuel, yet there are those who are freezing to death. We have enough work for everyone, yet there are millions that are jobless. We have thousands of institutions of learning, yet there are thousands who do not get the opportunity of attending to better their intellect.

The big question today is, why? Why do these facts exist? Let's get a few answers.

Mr. String Puller, if you happen to be one, pull the strings of your purse, not in charity, for we puppets still have a little pride, but in giving us a living wage, where we can provide adequate food, clothing and education for our families. Don't you realize, Mr. Industrialist, Mr. Manufacturer, Mr. Financier, that when you cut the strings to your puppets the show will cease to go on?

—CHARLES FENNELL SNIPES.
Rock Hill.

Says MacRae Insurance Figures Misleading

Dear Sir:

Hugh MacRae of Wilmington, is quoted in the daily press as having made the bald, unqualified statement that "Life insurance premiums to outside companies have exceeded benefit payments by $200,000,000 annually."

I recall a similar statement as far back as 1935, which I challenged in The Charlotte Observer. Now, this claim comes again from one admittedly uninformed. Life insurance, like all other legitimately conducted businesses, has a definite expense load. When to the net "benefit payments" referred to are added the dividends to policyholders, commissions to licensed agents, salaries allowed under the law, office rents, taxes, etc., with special emphasis on taxes, the outside life insurance companies leave more money in the state than they take out.

If Mr. MacRae cares to be fair, he will get the facts from the State Insurance Department at Raleigh and set himself right before the intelligent life insurance policyholders of North Carolina. Life insurance is the best balanced business that pays taxes and license fees in any state.

—LOUIS PHILLIPS.
Bear Creek.

Side Glances

"That's why our phone bill is so high—every minute my back is turned your son plays business man!"

Mysterious Peace Terms

By Dorothy Thompson

THE eleven-point peace proposals that issued so mysteriously from the Vatican a few days ago have been universally repudiated by everyone except the American correspondents who cabled them. Washington has denied that Mr. Welles had anything to do with them. Rome and Berlin, Paris and London, all deny them. Mr. Chamberlain's speech and the shakeup in the Paris Cabinet all indicate that war, not peace, is on the calendar. For certainly a Reynaud-Daladier Cabinet, excluding the well-known appeaser Bonnet and including three Socialists, is the nearest thing to a government of national concentration that France has yet had, and it is a strong Government. The more vigorous prosecution of the war, not the opposite, is indicated.

Nevertheless, I think we shall hear of these peace terms again. No one knows who planted them, but they were not a secret long before they came out. New York bankers with correspondents abroad have been talking about a proposed peace for the last month and hinting that it would offer terms so reasonable that it would be difficult to reject them. Furthermore, although Mr. Welles' visit to Europe was undoubtedly partly for reasons of domestic politics and partly of a purely informative nature, the President intended to sound out the possibility of a negotiated peace, and if terms could be obtained from Germany that might be the basis of negotiations, to call a conference of neutrals to demand peace.

RUSSIA HAS THEM ALL IN DREADFUL DISMAY

The time between the termination of the Finnish War and the meeting of Mussolini and Hitler at the Brenner was, undoubtedly, the most critical week since the beginning of the war. Several facts emerged when the noise of battle died down on the Russo-Finnish front which matter greatly to the situation of Europe. One is the strength and importance of the Russian Army, about which most journalists, including this columnist, have been ill-informed. It is a factor to be reckoned with, and a big factor.

The success of Russia has thrown a scare into conservative neutral, Allied and German ranks and revived the perennial hope in those ranks of bringing Germany into camp through a negotiated peace, and turning against the "real" enemy—Russia. And the eleven points represent the sort of compromise that might be hoped for if these elements were successful. They contain a little bit of everybody's program; the restoration of some sort of independent Poland and Czecho-Slovakia, to save the faces of the Allies, the latter, however, to be allied with Germany, who before the war began made it clear—in private conversations which took place between Chamberlain and Goering via intermediaries—that Germany would never really relinquish Czecho-Slovakia; a Danubian confederation, under the guardianship of Italy and Germany (which would please the Vatican); absolute freedom of religion in Germany (Vatican plus Roosevelt); emigration of all remaining Jews from Germany with the assistance of Britain, France and Italy (very satisfactory to the Nazis, and only a new horrible problem for the Jews, whom every one can always gang up against for the sake of peace); liberty of trade, no hindrance to the exchange of raw materials, economic collaboration with the United States (Mr. Hull and reciprocal trade); satisfaction of Italian interests in Djibouti, Suez, French North Africa and Tunisia; return of German colonies, in the course of time.

DOWN WITH ONE DEMON, UP WITH ANOTHER

These terms represent the program of international industrialists, and right-wing politicians in most countries. Whether they were ever advanced by Germany at all is still an open question, and if they were so advanced, whether they were ever seriously meant is another. The crusade against the Soviet Union that was one of the points in the list of eleven given out by Mr. Mathews and appeared nowhere else, is certainly in the minds of the international group who are back of some such peace as this. The difficulty is that you cannot have a crusade against the Soviet Union unless you first have peace, and you will not get the masses to go to war against the Soviet Union on the side of Hitler after a peace has been made.

Visitin' Around

The First Robin

(North Wilkesboro Hustler)

Winter has broke. A tramp printer passed through last week from Florida going north.

High Stepper

(Blue Ridge Road item, Western Carolina Tribune)

Miss Gracy Fair Pace of Hickory spent the week-end with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Gaither Pace.

The Straw That Broke The Camel's Back

(Piney Grove item, Goldsboro News-Argus)

Bad luck visited in the home of A. S. Eakes Friday night in a three-fold way. His son, Patrick, was taken to the hospital for treatment, Irene Eakes fell on the stove and received painful burns, and a fine milk cow died.