THE CHARLOTTE NEWS

And Evening Chronicle

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● W. C. Dowd (1864-1937) ●

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SATURDAY, MARCH 30, 1940

Return

A Note On The First Warm Evening Of The Spring

It was perhaps not yet fully Spring though April was at hand and Spring sometimes came so early as February. But the rain which the morning would bring would be listened in by thunder and would be warm and mucky, would give way for the sun quickly.

And in the evening before — the bowling balls clicked loudly through windows open for the first time since the passing of last Summer. The streets were full of people, walking — not hurriedly and only to go from one place to another, but saunteringly, pausing to look in every window.

Negro bootblacks whistled loudly and imperatively at hypothetical persons down the street. Lanky youths broke suddenly into a gallop without apparent reason. Smaller boys moved about in companies, chattering, whistling, their hands in restless motion. Unescorted little high school girls proceeded now in pairs, their arms around one another's waist. The restaurants were empty save for an occasional detached male or a solitary couple drinking hock beer.

The automobiles slowed, their tires singing softly along the asphalt. People called out to each other as they passed, laughed with sudden unaccountable high spirits.

And underneath all the stir and sound, there was a silence. The faces of the young men and women were heavy and dreaming as they passed, and upon the faces of the older people there was a pensive shadow. It was as though the world waited, listening. And in the yard of the old house that was gone from Tryon Street, under the shadow of the great bare iron frame of the new hotel, an old, old pear tree was a white cloud. And it was as though it waited, listening, also.

Roundabout

Congress Tries To Sabotage What It's Afraid To Kill

The "economy-minded" House this week passed an appropriations bill which exceeded the President's budget by $55,000,000, mainly to the purpose of greasing farmers in an election year.

At the same time, it put through two cuts which are particularly entertaining. One of them slashes $337,000 off the proposed appropriation for the National Labor Relations Board; the other $1,050,000 off the proposed appropriation for the Wage & Hour Administration.

Confessed purpose of this is to force the reduction of the staff of the NLRB, and at least to prevent the expansion of the staff of the WHA. Which is to say that the real purpose is to sabotage the Wagner Act and the Wage & Hour Act. So far as we know, there has been no evidence offered that the NLRB is overstaffed. And the WHA has been so hamstrung by lack of funds from the beginning that its enforcement has been pretty largely a joke.

It is an excellent illustration of the way we are governed. Here we have a Congress which, in large part, seems to yearn to be rid of the Wagner Act and the Wage & Hour Act. But apparently it is far from sure that the country in general feels that way, is very certain that powerful pressure groups don't feel that way — would move swiftly to punish any such repeal. And so it attempts to achieve the end by cutting off appropriations, so to nullify the laws which it, as the primary lawmaking body, passed in the first place.

Definition

How The Nazis Interpret The Duties Of Neutrals

The Nazi Germans are steaming up now for a new demand on the neutrals.

Armed merchant ships, they are arguing, are warships and neutrals must treat them as such when they come into their ports, or be prepared to take the consequences, which German spokesmen intimate darkly will be highly unpleasant.

That is interesting as furnishing further light on the Nazi definition of neutrality.

Some international law authorities agree that an armed merchantman ought to be treated as a warship, on the ground that a weapon is obviously as well fitted for offense as defense and that nobody can draw the line between the two functions. It sounds logical, but the rule is not embodied in any of the agreements which now make up the basis of international law.

On the other hand, it is one of the rules laid down and established of the principles of that law as it stands that a submarine is bound not to sink an unarmed merchantman without warning and provision for the safety of the crew. The world knows that Germany regularly violates that rule, sinks the unarmed ships not only of the Allies but of neutrals, drowns their crews.

Definition by the Nazis, therefore, seems to be:

Neutrality: The giving up by neutrals of all their own rights under international law as against Nazi Germany, and the strict enforcement against the enemies of Nazi Germany, not only of the rules of that law as already agreed upon but also of all possible amendments to the rules which can serve Nazi Germany.

Growing Pains

School System Constantly Running Short Of Space

Like any growing family, the Charlotte school system is up against the constant need of new space. It's something that a thriving community ought to worry about, either. It would be time to worry if we didn't need new space. Ask Mr. Kuester.

A problem within the problem of keeping school facilities apace with the population is that brought about by shifting residential areas. A school building in some older section of the city will have more rooms than it needs, for the reason that families have moved out to newer sections, which thus require new schools and almost immediately more rooms in these new schools.

Superintendent Harding cites Zeb Vance School in Third Ward as an example of this obsolescence. The area has become largely industrialized. Its families have pulled up stakes and gone where the air is cleaner.

So it is that the civic never catches up with its shortage of schools, drawing out of the taxpayers the cry that the schools are always, always asking for more. It seems so, in truth, and it may be that the natural desire of parents that their children shall go to a newer, more fashionable school instead of to one where the young scholars come attired in denim, makes this problem more acute than it has to be.

But that's no more than a circumstance to the main, underlying process of growth, and the increasing investment in school plants that it requires. And the end is not in sight.

Run To Earth

A Lady Spots A Notable Red And Saves Republic

Lizzie is at it again. Lizzie is the lady who makes Reds sprout where no Reds grew before, by the simple device of applying the tool. Does he agree with Stalin? No? Then manifestly he is a Red.

In her private incarnation she is Mrs. Elizabeth Dilling, author of the "Red Network," in which it is proved that everybody left of Herbert Hoover is in the pay of Moscow, and of "The Roosevelt Red Record and Its Background," in which it is conclusively demonstrated that the real power in the Kremlin is the man in the White House and that Stalin is only a stooge.

Object of her tender attentions in her latest work, "Wanted—A Presidential Man—a White Horse," is the Hon. Thomas E. Dewey, the nemesis of Fritz Kuhn, no less. Thomas, it appears, has been an official sponsor of the Civil Liberties Union, and of course it is well known that all believers in civil liberties (the Civil Liberties Union exists to defend them) as defined in the Bill of Rights are *ipso facto* Communists. Worse Thomas accepted the support of the American Labor Party, in addition to that of the Republicans, when he ran for Governor of New York. And it surely needs no demonstration that the word "labor" is equivalent to "Communism." Worse still, Thomas is a friend of Kenneth Simpson, New York Republican leader, who has dared to insinuate that he does not think that Herbert Hoover is the proper man to be elected President in 1940. That, of course, is well known to be the Moscow line.

And worst of all.

"Dewey's picture appeared in the Communist Party's 'Daily Worker' when he ran as candidate for District Attorney . . ."

Which seems indisputably to add up to Quod *Erat Demonstrandum*.

American Way, Eh?

By Raymond Clapper

WASHINGTON. — Tub-thumping Republican Presidential candidates, when they can't think of anything else to say, warn that this Administration is destroying the free competitive system.

That is funny for two reasons.

First, this bland assumption that we have been having free competition doesn't square with the fact that our business structure is criss-crossed with price controls, privately instituted and privately maintained, through patent controls, resale price agreements, trade-association price posting, and dozens of indirect devices.

Second, there is taking place under this Administration now one of the most energetic efforts ever made in Washington to restore free competition by securing it from these restraints.

Under Assistant Attorney General Thurman Arnold a realistic attempt is being made to enforce the anti-trust laws, not only against business groups but against labor unions which hitherto have been considered untouchable dynamite.

BUSINESS AND LABOR BOTH GET CALLED

Thus we had on last Monday the U. S. Supreme Court ruling that the Ethyl Gasoline Corp violated the anti-trust laws through its system of licensing jobbers, with the effect of controlling prices and suppressing competition among users of its patented automobile fuel. The opinion of Associate Justice Harlan Stone was issued without dissent. It is a broad decision which Government lawyers say goes far beyond the oil industry. They believe it will prevent patent pools from being used to control products and prices after more than one resale and thus end one of the most far-reaching devices for suppressing competition.

And on Tuesday we had Justice Peyton Gordon of the U. S. District Court here, holding that labor unions are subject to the anti-trust laws when they begin to monkey with restraints of trade that go beyond matters of wages and hours and other legitimate objects of trade unions. This opinion if finally sustained by the higher courts, will establish the power of the Government to prosecute labor unions for monopolistic practices, of which there are plenty.

A BOW BETWEEN TWO UNIONS

The labor case arose when the Teamsters' Union quarreled with the Operating Engineers Union here over which should drive the concrete mixing trucks. Three contractors made collective-bargaining agreements with the Operating Engineers. The Teamsters tried to break it up. Both are AFL unions, and a referee finally settled the controversy. But the trial again of the Teamsters' Union will go ahead anyway.

This is one of many prosecutions brought by Assistant Attorney General Arnold to break up labor union rackets which have afflicted the building industry particularly. More than a dozen indictments have been obtained, involving some 35 unions. AFL officials have bitterly complained that labor is being persecuted. But Mr. Arnold insists that he is prosecuting no practices which could be justified under the most liberal Supreme Court dissenting opinions. He is using those pro-labor minority opinions as his guide, and cracking down only when the unions go beyond them.

RACKETEERING IS THE TARGET IN THIS

This is no drive against labor unions but against racketeering, as when union regulations attempt to prevent installation of factory-painted kitchens, require the hiring of unnecessary labor, compel a farmer hauling his crop to market to hire a member of the Teamsters' Union to sit on the truck with him when he crosses the city line.

In the Chicago milk case a labor union was charged with combining with distributors to withhold milk from dealers who refused to join the price-fixing ring. Indictments at Detroit were obtained against eight tile-manufacturing companies, three contractors' associations, and an AFL union, accused of conspiring to drive independent manufacturers out of business by cutting off their supplies and their labor.

Republican Presidential candidates like Styles Bridges and Taft are volunteering to restore the American way of life by getting rid of the New Deal. Maybe Thurman Arnold is beating them to it with his two-horned anti-trust drive against private suppression of free competition.

The Census

—By Herblock

Letters to the Editor:

Liberty Is Best Of It

Dear Sir:

I like best that part of U. S. democracy which guarantees to the individual life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. Our democracy goes a step farther and breaks these guarantees down in some detail. It provides that the individual, according to his own conscience, can worship God as he sees fit. It also gives him the right to disbelieve if he so chooses. Again, our rights are protected through the system of referendum and recall. Through the means of suffrage and the ballot we can choose and elect those who govern us. We have the means to recall them.

U. S. democracy permits the exercise of free speech and this, I think, is the greatest boon that democracy can offer. It is a privilege that is frequently abused, but, I feel that we can never afford to cancel this right, come what may. Everyone should have the right to speak his mind for through the spoken word we safeguard all our other rights and privileges. Lawful dissension, within bounds of decency, must be tolerated. Our form of democracy encourages a free press but, like the spoken word, it too, is a privilege often abused and scorn, like the spoken word, the right to print conflicting views must be safeguarded.

Democracy provides police protection. It encourages education. It guarantees the individual to be secure in the possession of property. It encourages individual initiative that each should be rewarded according to his own efforts. Our democracy recognizes the dignity of man and the past 150 years has proven it.

However, like mankind itself, no form of government is perfect. Our democracy has its faults, to be sure, but we also have the means at our disposal to eliminate them.

The worst that can be said of the U. S. democracy is that it permits property rights and human rights to conflict. Theoretically, this condition should not exist, but it does, and this too, has worried man down through the centuries. Still human rights take precedence over property rights, for civilized man. I admit I can't answer that question.

We live under the best form of government under the sun. Let's compare our lot with the insecurity of those in Europe. We worship God according to the dictates of our own conscience. Is that permitted in all countries? We elect our representatives to office. Dictators assume office for life. There is no free speech or free press under dictatorships and the man who criticizes suffers the loss of his liberty and get no trial by jury. Compare these outrages with our inherent rights.

In conclusion, I would say that I believe that a man now living on Mars, and offered a chance to come to any country on earth he chose for the purpose of making his home, would unhesitatingly prefer the good old USA.

—DAVID J. KESSLER.
201 Andrill Terrace,
Charlotte.

Write As You Please And Win Five Smacks

Next week The News will offer an oldtime subject for letters to the editor. Instead, the $5 prize will be paid for the best letter received on any theme the writer chooses.

The editors have a complaint. The letter writers tend to wait until the last two or three days of the contest period before delivering themselves. Result is that letters pile up in unwieldly quantities on Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays instead of being more evenly distributed. There is no absolute rule about it, but the editors confess candidly that hereafter they are going to be definitely prejudiced in favor the idea of awarding the prize to a letter that gets in early.

Contest begins immediately, closes Saturday, April 6. Letters to be eligible for the prize, must reach this office before noon on the latter date, must be published over the correct name and street or rural address of the writers, and should not exceed 300 words.

Dear Sir:

In answering your question, "What's best and what's worst about U. S. democracy?" I would list among the best things the fact that so many people have been put to work.

Our wonderful President has set up so many projects that have been very helpful to all races and ages. To mention a few, there are the NYA, the WPA, the Old-Age Pension, and several other projects that have been given us by democracy and for which we are very thankful.

The worst thing, in my opinion, is the "wet law" which causes more highway accidents than we would have if the good old USA was dry.

—MRS. S. McARTHUR.
P. O. Box 402,
Red Springs.

Lack Of Jobs Is Worst Of Democracy

Dear Sir:

United States democracy is the best democracy, and the best kind of government there is. The best thing about United States democracy is our freedom of press and speech. Best because it is the backbone of our democracy. This freedom makes us a part of our Government, gives us a voice in how it is run, rather than our right to vote. And without this freedom our elections would be like those of Russia or Germany, like those of Germany, filled with a lot of non-sided bosses.

I think the worst thing about United States democracy is its seeming inability to find a way to give employment to the unemployed, without sending the national debt skyrocketing into high heaven. But I don't think the United States will have to copy Hitler to accomplish it.

—MRS. ANNIE MAE ALMOND,
Route 2, Kings Mountain.

Constitution Is Both Best And Worst

Dear Sir:

The best thing about American democracy is the Constitution of the United States which insures its citizens the best of everything that a government can give and afford. The privilege to elect and defeat all powers that arise without fear of terror of elections.

Yet this same Constitution gives privileges to people that are trying to destroy it. Because they have freedom of speech, freedom of press and the right to organize agencies that tend to destroy this same Constitution.

—ARNOLD E. TARR.
Lincolnton.

Money In Politics Is Worst Of Democracy

Dear Sir:

Democracy has never ceased to exist since the signing of the Declaration of Independence in this fair land of ours. But, as the old saying goes, "there are thorns among the roses."

The foremost and most comprehensive thing about democracy is not education alone. If anybody thinks so, I am afraid he could not grasp the meaning of the word. Illiterate people and even backwardness have succeeded under democracy.

Again, one of the great benefits of democracy is that it trains people to be alert and thus points the way to true Christian citizenship. The downtrodden and heavy-laden everywhere are lifted up by the power of democracy.

But in this Government for the people, by the people and of the people, difficulties and perils have arisen.

The greatest danger is the evil use of money spent in our political campaigns. Too often part of this money is used for bribery or other improper purposes. The men who are elected to offices may try to please bosses and machines instead of the public.

Too much stress has been laid on the political side of democracy and too little on the spiritual power.

We, too, like Russia, China and Germany may fail if we do not look to our Creator and for truth, justice and Christian virtues help rule our land.

—MRS. A. B. NANNEY.
Dover Mills,
Shelby.

Thinks Sale Of Rum Worst Of Democracy

Dear Sir:

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—MRS. S. McARTHUR.
P. O. Box 402,
Red Springs.

City Hall Topics

By Dick Young

TRAFFIC is one thing that everybody knows something about and so when Councilman John Ward threw out a suggestion on the need for improvement of traffic conditions in the city at this week's City Council session he started a hub-bub of discussion that finally led Mayor Douglas to rap for order: "Please, let's talk one at a time. This sounds like a sewing circle."

Councilman Ward suggested that it might be well, in an effort to speed up traffic in the downtown area, to turn off all traffic lights during the morning and afternoon rush hours and station patrolmen at intersections to direct traffic.

And when that was thrown out, it seemed that everybody on the Council had his idea about what should be done and here is what each Councilman said was the thing to do:

SO MANY MEN, SO MANY MINDS

Councilman L. R. Sides: "What we need is a traffic expert, a full time traffic engineer, who will study our situation and proceed with plans for relief."

Councilman H. H. Baxter: "Here's the trouble. Traffic is slowed down by the present system of lights. Put two lights together and that will speed it up."

Mayor Douglas: "We need to take down some of the lights we've got."

Councilman W. N. Hovis: "I'm in favor of stopping all jay-walking."

Councilman John S. Nance: "The lights ought to be speeded up at least five miles an hour."

Councilman J. H. Hunter: "All we got to do is to send a man to New York and let him study the handling of traffic there. He can learn plenty that can be put into use here."

Councilman W. R. Hudson: "If everybody would drive at the same speed the trouble would be eliminated. You can change the lights all you want to but when you get behind somebody driving five miles an hour, there's nothing you can do."

WHAT REALLY AILS TRAFFIC HERE

Two of these suggestions reached the formal stage of motions but neither of them passed. Mr Nance's motion to speed up the timing on the traffic lights received only four votes, and the motion of Mr. Hovis to stop jay-walking got only two.

And so nothing was done about traffic, including the consideration of the movement of gasoline tank trucks on Charlotte's streets.

The diversity of opinion among the Councilmen is, to my mind, a fair indication of what is wrong with traffic. All of us are too individualistic; we have our own ideas and want to drive according to them instead of according to the rules. If motorists would conform to the present regulations more completely, we'd all be better off.

The vital problems of fire prevention and protection, which has become acute in Charlotte, is going to be seriously and conscientiously tackled by the newly-created Fire Prevention Commission. When it sat in on its first meeting this week I was struck with the serious thought shown by the members of the group. Civic leaders have joined with municipal officials to map out a program, and all were agreed that something should be done immediately.

HOW AN OPERATOR SPEEDS UP CALLS

Joe Hunnicutt, radio dispatcher at police headquarters, has worked out a neat little trick that materially aids him in handling telephone calls and in providing service to those who call. Those in various offices at headquarters who must get outside connections through the switchboard, have been instructed to move their receiver hook up and down three times, flashing the light on the switchboard, when they want an outside connection. This means that Mr. Hunnicutt is able to know what connection they want and even though he may be tied up on another call, he can quickly plug in and make the connection, going on with the other call without interruption—and without—keeping the caller waiting.

Visitin' Around

It's A Tie

(Drexel Item, Morganton News-Herald)

It looks as if Spring is here, with Cline Brothers unloading Drexel's first carload of fertilizer for the year, but it doesn't bother Lee Powell who is unloading another car of coal today.

What Method You Use, Mis. Lamb?

(Hot Springs Item, Zebulon Record)

Mrs. Charles Rhyne, who owns the house Mrs. Lamb is living in, is repairing inside the house, has put on a new roof and is now going to paint it.

Pickin's Sound Kind Of Lean

(Fruitland Item, Hendersonville Times-News)

Jay Pryor and Horace Rogers visited in the Big Hungry section Sunday.

Deduction

Billy Arthur,
New Bern Tribune

A local minister illustrated last Sunday's sermons with a story of an actual occurrence in New Bern.

"I saw this man," said he, "stop in front of a house, look up the street and then down the street, and then across the street to see if anyone was looking. Then he darted quickly into the house. "I am confident," the minister concluded, "that he wasn't looking for his Lord."

Revised Version

Norfolk Virginian-Pilot

National conscience, we gather from the behavior of the European neutrals, is that still small voice which whispers to a country's rulers that the law-breaking neighbor is the stronger.

The Three Books

South Carolina Lutheran

A Negro preacher walked into the office of a newspaper in Rocky Mount, N. C., and said, Mistah Editah, they is forty-seven of my congregation which subscribes for yo papah. Do that entitle me to have a church notice in yo daddy issue?" "Sit down and wait," said the editor. "I thank you, suh." And this is the notice which the minister wrote: "Mount Moriah Baptist Church, Rev. John Obadiah, pastor. Preaching morning and evening. In the promulgation of the gospel three books is necessary—the Bible, the hymn book and the pocketbook. Come tomorrow and bring all three."