THE CHARLOTTE NEWS

And Evening Chronicle

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W. G. Dowd Jr., President and General Manager — J. E. Dowd, Vice-President and Editor

● W. G. Dowd, 1855-1927 ●

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WEDNESDAY, MAY 7, 1941

New Board

With the People's Backing It Ought To Work Wonders

The Citizens Group showed yesterday that it was no flash in the pan. Quite the contrary, it demonstrated even more forcefully than in the primary that it had the strength to have elected the full City Council of eleven men. It could have elected them in a walk if at the beginning it had mustered a complete slate.

That was a salutary, entirely wholesome display of the power of the unorganized people. Now remains to be seen what sort of municipal government their representatives contrive.

They start out splendidly, with enthusiastic public backing behind them. There is the risk of factionalism, to be sure, because antipathy could easily spring up between the newcomers to the Council and the hold-overs whom they fought in the election. But closer acquaintance and the common desire for the best possible government for Charlotte should obviate that hazard.

Still, there remains to be seen what sort of government we are going to get. It will be conservative, we feel sure, and wholly on the up and up. There won't be any funny business. There will be close attention to the operation of this vast municipal corporation, with responsibility resting squarely upon the City Manager and department heads.

There will be, we feel hopeful, a prompt relaxation of the Blue Laws. We see nothing to gain by letting this controversy build up into vehement proportions when it may be settled in a jiffy and soon forgotten. And the people want a recreational Sunday.

For the rest—the attack on the murder and crime menaces, the abatement of prostitution and worse vice, traffic and the dime cabs, city planning and street widening, smoke abatement, noise abatement, community facilities such as a up-town theater-auditorium, uptown rest-rooms, parks, playgrounds and all the requirements of a growing concentration of population—all these benefits and improvements remain to be considered in the order of their importance and in the light of practicability.

At the moment, however, it is immensely encouraging to see going into office a new Mayor and almost a new Council on the platform of better government by the representatives of the people themselves. Success to their endeavors.

Gangrene

New Growth of Vice and Crime Was To Be Expected

The case of the Fort Bragg sergeant who got off a bus in Charlotte, was accosted by two white men, went with them to get a drink and ended up as the victim of a "clip joint" run by a Negro criminal, is only one dramatic incident in a rapidly developing picture of the reaction of the city's pattern of vice and crime with the influx of the soldiers.

Prostitution, bootlegging, gambling, dope-selling, petty crime already so flourish here, as you may read in detail in *The News* today, that the authorities at the Air Base have been compelled to make large areas of the city "restricted districts"—areas which contain many respectable business houses, including, ironically enough, *The News* itself.

The fault in all this is plain enough. Ultimately, it undoubtedly lies in large part with such policies as driving the power business underground and into the hands of illicit or criminal elements. Everyone who knows the facts knows that the bootleg trade is the heart and center of the whole crime and vice picture here.

But the proximate fault lies in the fact that nothing vigorous has been done to deal with the situation within the existing limitations—it has been notorious for years that the thing was constantly and rapidly growing.

Prostitution flourishes here, and has long flourished, as openly as it ever flourished in any town with a legal red light district, but without any of the medical safeguards of legalized vice. Result: that the town is a sort of dumping ground for women infected with the most malignant diseases.

Not nothing has ever been done about it beyond a few vague gestures, and now, as the soldiers arrive, new contingents of the disease-bearers pour in—to the point that the Air Base authorities are gravely alarmed over the rising incident of venereal infection among their men.

It is not surprising. Anybody with a grain of sense could have predicted it beforehand.

Pointed Up

Brash Men Have Their Uses When They Set Out Facts

Claude Pepper will certainly be denounced by the appeasers as a warlock, and many millions will think him too rash—and brash.

Yet the calm fact is that in his speech yesterday he pointed up questions which are inescapable under penalty of disaster, and which the nation, with the Administration at its head, is refusing to face.

The Administration, do we say? More accurately, the President of the United States himself. Secretary Hull and Secretary Knox are already on record as pointing out that it is nonsense to send England goods which are going to be sunk by the Nazis while en route, and that convoy right on into the so-called war zones—both those that are arbitrarily marked out by Germany and the much smaller ones fixed under our own Neutrality Act—is the only possible solution to that problem, short of retreat into appeasement and certain destruction.

And now comes Secretary Stimson to say the same thing. But the President does not say it. Instead, he goes on sending up these trial balloons—everyone understands that these Cabinet speeches are exactly that—in what looks like a very ague of fear that he cannot count on the American people to back him in decisions and actions necessary to the national safety and even the national existence.

Perhaps his fears are right; but if so the American nation is already in process of disintegration, and the sooner it is demonstrated the better.

But, according to the opinion polls, more than 70 per cent of the people are in favor of convoy, even if that involves shooting (war), provided the alternative is the fall of Britain. Is that not good evidence that there is nothing really wrong with the American people as a whole, but that they hesitate simply because they feel—quite rightly—that if we are faced with this alternative, it is the President's own business to inform them personally and frankly and fully, to assume the function of leadership which is his right and his duty?

But the matter goes beyond convoy. Pepper undoubtedly stepped out ahead of American opinion yesterday when he proposed that we take the initiative in the East and, from Chinese bases, bomb Tokyo, an easily burned city.

But what about his references to the Azores, the Canaries, the Cape Verdes, Dakar, Greenland, Iceland?

The Azores bear exactly the same relation to our Atlantic Coast that Hawaii bears to our Pacific Coast. The Canaries, the Cape Verdes, and Dakar bear the same relationship to Latin America.

Even more important at the moment, these points, with Iceland, dominate the Eastern Atlantic along its whole length. If Hitler gets to them first, convoy isn't going to be of much use. Or at least, it is going to involve enormous losses for our navy, inevitably great losses in supply.

As for Greenland, it dominates the whole northern quarter of the Western Atlantic, the waters off Canada. And our present unclear policy there is certainly ground for uneasiness.

It is a grim prospect. But we are not going to solve it reasonably by simply pretending that it doesn't exist. The alternative to facing it, as Herbert Agar pointed out at Rock Hill last night, is likely to be the defeat of Britain, the passage of the British navy into Nazi hands, and perhaps the disintegration of the United States from within during the next twelve months.

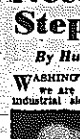
It is vitamin A that helps one see in the dark. To find a tennis bat under the overshoes in a hall closet, eat plenty of carrots and such.

It is assumed the gods, fleeing Olympus, left documents behind which will prove the Nazis cracked the foul conspiracy in the nick of time.

It appears that one of Morgenthau's eight-hand boys in the Treasury is a John L. Sullivan. The taxpayer who had an idea of not coming along quietly is hereby informed.

Necessary Step

By Hugh S. Johnson



WASHINGTON—Late as it is, we are finally aware that the industrial side of war is just as important as the military side — more important just now. At last we know that the battle of production is more vital to us at this stage than any battle in the Balkans ever was. We should have known all this long, long ago. We learned and led the world in the lesson in 1918. But we forgot to remember it — forgot, notwithstanding the constant warnings of such veterans of that elder effort as B. M. Baruch and, with becoming modesty, the constant yammering of this column for six years past.

COMPETITION MUST STAND ASIDE

The outstanding lesson of the World War was that, in order to get full war effort out of industry, it must be marshaled as a regiment is marshaled. In peace, our rule is "Competition is the life of trade." In war, the industrial rule must be "Co-operation to the uttermost — co-operation without stint or limit." Competitors must become co-operators and, under the leadership of Government, each great competitive industry, within itself and in respect of all others, must become a team fighting toward a common goal and not a battle royal by a ringful of blindfolded sluggers.

Patents, facilities and shortage inventories must be pooled and trade secrets shared. Regardless of primary contracts, the manufacture of component parts must be farmed out until every wheel in the nation is turning in a common concert of action.

TRUST LAWS WILL BE SUSPENDED

This isn't any theoretical essay. This is the necessary key principle of industrial war effort. What are we doing about that? From time to time for several years this column has pointed out that we can't do anything effective about it and still enforce to the letter the Anti-Trust Act and that the first step in industrial mobilization is the creation of "war-service committees" of bellwethers in each industry to receive the directions of Government and get co-operation in carrying them out.

That should have been the very first step of the Knudsen-Hillman OPM. It is turning out to be about the last one. It is going forward now and the President's letter about pooling machine-tool facilities is one of the outward and visible signs.

Why wasn't it done before? Because the Sherman and Clayton Acts forbid it. Now both Attorney General Jackson and his anti-trust assistant specialist, Mr. Thurman Arnold, are on record as saying that such "combinations in restraint of trade," if made at the request of Government and under Government supervision, will not be prosecuted. That is highly commendable patriotic common-sense on their part. It could have been done much earlier had OPM sensed the principles of its problem and requested it.

A New Rival for the Mocker Appears

Mrs. Theo B. Davis, Zebulon Record

Did you know that brown thrashers sing very much like mockingbirds? At least, some of them do, and I didn't learn it until last week.

The oldest grandson showed me the thrasher when I heard the song and was looking for a mocker; and I found Jack was right when he said the brown bird was the singer. One at a time we convinced the family. I tried to think the mocker's song is more liquid and mellow in tone, but must admit that I can't always tell the difference.

I knew mockingbirds and thrashers are close kin, though the former is smaller than the latter. And Dr. Coltrane says the singing thrasher is smaller than the thrasher that does not sing—but does scold. He is most probably right as he has known for a good while that some of them sing like the mockers.

The Calming Lens

J. T. McManus in PM

Many Hollywood people are unbelievably mike-shy. They say that Errol Flynn had such jitters a half hour before his appearance this season that they had to get photographers backstage to keep snapping pictures of him until broadcast time. That restored his ego, and his calm.

The QUEEN CITY'S HOPE CHEST

No. 1 — An Uptown Theater-Auditorium
No. 2 — A Separate Court District
No. 3 — An Uptown Rest Room
No. 4 — Street-Widening

"No, Wilbur!"

—By Herblock

The War On Food Front

From Business Week

"Food will win the war." That was America's slogan in 1917. In 1939 and '40, there seemed to be little likelihood that this country would ever again face the hysteria of meatless days and plowed-under vore gardens—either to supply its own needs or those of the belligerents that it is actively supporting.

Suddenly, however, food is back in the picture, but with a difference. The emphasis has shifted to production of those foods—fruits, vegetables, dairy products—which nutritionists call "protective" because of their high vitamin and mineral content, and to seeing that everybody knows about these foods and gets enough of them.

That's what lies behind the President's announcement this week of a national conference on nutrition to be held in Washington May 26-28, under the supervision of Paul V. McNutt, Federal Security Administrator. There have been plenty of straws in the wind pointing toward a national nutrition campaign—the stepped-up program for vitamin-mineral enrichment of white flour, McNutt's appointment as national health co-ordinator last November, announcement last week of a plan for "pre-habilitation" of draft-age men, based on the finding that 32 per cent of the eligible draftees have been disqualified as physically unfit for military service and that malnutrition is a contributing factor in maybe 50 per cent of the cases. The nutrition program consists of three major divisions: education, research, supply. Education will head up through a National Nutrition Advisory Committee, already appointed by McNutt. M. L. Wilson, Director of Extension Work for the Department of Agriculture, is chairman of the committee whose job will be to publicize the protective foods—particularly the new enriched flour.

FEAR SHORTAGE OF VITAMIN CONCENTRATES

Research will stem mainly from the National Research Council's committee on foods and nutrition. The council worked with millers and bakers to achieve the present flour-fortification standards and it is now getting ready to co-operate with other interested industries like sugar and margarine.

The council's biggest job to date has been a complete overhauling of the standards for recommended daily vitamin and mineral intake per individual. The new standards were to have been announced last week but objections to some of the requirements developed. Probably the revised standards will be ready for the nutrition conference.

The council also is concerned with expanding existing supplies of vitamin concentrates and other nutrients. With increasing demand for bulk vitamins, there's been talk of shortages and rising prices.

PRICES OF FOODS ARE TO BE STABILIZED

Millers have objected to the compulsory rather than optional inclusion of riboflavin (vitamin B-2 or G) in flour fortification standards on the grounds that high prices will slash into their profits and there isn't enough to go around, anyhow. But one big producer of riboflavin reportedly has offered to turn out all that's needed within six months if it gets an expected priority on orders for brass and aluminum equipment.

Supply will be the all-important job of the Surplus Marketing Administration. Early this month, SMA was made the procurement agency for lease-lend food supplies to Great Britain. The new authority was quickly tied into SMA's existing program for buying up commodities for distribution to relief and low-income families. In addition to commodities purchased for distribution at home and abroad, SMA is getting ready to peg prices by buying and selling stock-piles of certain foods.

Secretary of Agriculture Wickard already has announced that SMA will make open-market purchases to support "approximately" these long term prices at Chicago: Hogs (cwt.), $9; chickens (lb.), 15c; eggs (doz.), 22c. Dairy products will be pegged on the basis of a 31c-a-lb. butter price. Grades and sizes are not mentioned, and SMA apparently is hitting at an average level.

PLAN PERMANENT SHIFT IN AGRICULTURE

For the past four weeks SMA has been buying foods at the rate of $20,000,000 a month, instead of at the $10,000,000 a month level set last year. Britain is expected to take between $300,000,000 and $500,000,000 before July, 1942.

Last week, Secretary Wickard announced that the Summer tomato crop would have to be increased by 15 per cent to produce an extra 15,000,000 cases of canned tomatoes. Almost the entire increase probably will be diverted to Britain. Canners were called into Washington and told that the Federal Surplus Commodities Corp. (legal agent for SMA) will make allowance for an extra $2.75 to $3 per ton in growers' contract prices when it considers bids. Similarly, Wickard is now holding out incentives for increase in egg and poultry production.

It all boils down to the fact that the D. of A. is using the national defense-nutrition angle as a cue for going into high gear on its long-term program for diverting acreage from staple crops, like wheat and cotton to vegetables, fruits, and dairy products.

A Program for South Carolina

Charleston News & Courier

One hears the news of new industries coming into South Carolina, and rejoices. In some districts they are needed. The News and Courier dearly hopes that South Carolina will never be industrialized to anything like the degree that industries are established in Connecticut, Pennsylvania, Ohio. The ideal life for the South Carolinians would be in a blend of industry with agriculture, of families living on farms and some of their members working in factories nearby. This manner of life is on the increase in the Piedmont region of the state, but it is well that the workers in the factories are one-third or one-fourth, not two-thirds or three-fourths, of the whole number of inhabitants.

Polite Query

Greensboro News

Winston-Salem is taxing its bootblacks with about $365 per each costs for shining shoes after 11 o'clock on Sunday morning. Business of wondering how late of a Sunday morning might one buy a package of cigarettes.

TODAY'S BIBLE THOUGHT

Blessed are the peacemakers: for they shall be called the children of God. — Matt. 5:9.

Side Glances

"And he told our husbands he would be too busy this afternoon to make a 15-minute appointment!"

Senate Sabotage

By Raymond Clapper

WASHINGTON. — Not only has the House taken its own sweet time about considering the bill to take over, with due compensation, foreign ships in American ports, but in the Senate some are preparing to use this measure as a vehicle for pursuing their hysterical debate against convoys.

That can have only one effect. It will delay the use of 1,800,000 tons of shipping which is desperately needed. Whatever the motives behind these obstructionists, the effect of their delaying tactics is to make it harder for England to survive.

TIME FOR PATIENCE IS ABOUT PAST

The time has long since passed when there is any excuse for any member of Congress being uninformed as to the grave danger to our security involved in the outcome of England's struggle to hold on. The facts are so plain, and so universally accepted among Army and Navy officials, in the State Department and indeed throughout the whole Administration, that anyone who refuses to see them now must inevitably rest under the suspicion that he is either increasingly ignorant or is willfully indifferent to the security of this country.

I have written about this many times and have tried to do it in a temperate and reasonable vein. But I have reached the point where I can have no respect for the intelligence of a member of Congress or a Senator who does not see that the survival of British seapower is important to the safety of the United States. The information which is available to newspaper correspondents in Washington is available, and more of it, to any Senator or Representative who is sincerely enough interested in the security of our country to inform himself.

WE HAVE SAME RIGHTS AS GERMANY

The point now is that 1,000,000 tons of idle foreign shipping lies in our ports. We want to take it over, pay for it, and put it to work. We are stripping our own oil tanker service, curtailing coastwise shipping, taking ships off other foreign runs, all in order to release tonnage for the haul to Britain. We are using our navy for air and sea patrol to assist the British in getting their goods across the ocean.

What is proposed now is that this 1,000,000 tons of idle shipping be put into use. President Roosevelt has asked Congress for authority to requisition it with due compensation. As Germany has requisitioned American industrial plants in Germany.

TOBEY SEEKS TO DELAY AID TO BRITAIN

This is opposed as a violation of international law, as an act of war, and as something Hitler wouldn't like. The trouble is that it is something the British need — that's what causes the opposition.

Senator Tobey of New Hampshire, who bled at every pore some months ago to block the taking of the census on the ground that it was an infringement on the personal liberty of God-fearing American citizens, proposes to hold up this vital measure by trying to hook on to it a rider against convoys. He knows that will delay the vote. He knows it will only open up a controversial subject and draw into the debate a score of other Senators whose whole course in the last year has been with the effect, if not the intention, of obstructing Britain's effort to survive, whose whole course has been to give aid and comfort to Hitler and whose policies, if they had prevailed would by now probably have left us standing alone with a one-ocean navy in a world of Axis victory multiplied by addition of the British Fleet and shipping facilities.

Britain is reaching the point where her war resistance will have to be curtailed unless more supplies get there. Sinking twice outruns building of ships.

I share the reluctance of many in Congress to go into convoying and naval warfare if it can be escaped, which is becoming increasingly doubtful.

But this proposal to use idle foreign shipping, which is rotting in our ports, is so far from a shooting proposition that opposition to it is difficult to understand except on the ground of either ignorant pig-headedness or vicious intention.

Visitin' Around

Well?
(Berea Item,
Hendersonville Times News)

Mrs. Pearl King made a business trip to Theodore Gibbs last Monday.

What Beats Us Is
Why He Had It To Do
(Mineral Spring Item,
Monroe Journal)

Mr. W. H. Penegar had the misfortune to have a good mule to die Monday.