

THE CHARLOTTE NEWS



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WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 1941

Exhibit A Man With Broken Neck Testifies To Taxicab's Inadequate Surety

The young man with the broken neck which is held rigidly in a steel and leather harness intends to appear before the City Council this afternoon to urge amendment of the City ordinance that fixes the public liability of taxicab operators at a maximum of \$2,500 for the injury of one person through their negligence...

We brought suit. A Superior Court jury awarded him \$10,000 for reasons that would be understood immediately by anybody who had seen the contraption he has to wear. But the insurance carried by the company to comply with the City ordinance covered only \$2,500 of the claim, and that is all he got.

The owners of private automobiles who carry public liability insurance usually take out policies which run upward from \$5,000 for injury to one person, \$10,000 for injury to more than one person. It is a remarkably queer business that the operators of taxicabs were not allowed to play their trade, which involves a far greater risk of serious multiple accident, with coverage of only \$2,500-\$5,000.

It is queerer still when we consider that the State law authorizing cities and towns to require liability insurance on taxicabs of public liability insurance fixes the maximum amount at \$10,000, and that the City ordinance covering only \$2,500-\$5,000 limits the liability of taxicabs.

It is queerer of all when we consider that in the case of the largest operator of taxicabs in the city, the amount of the surety bond, which begins at \$2,500 for a single cab, is proportionately increased for additional cabs. For two cabs, his bond would have to be only \$5,000, or \$2,500 per cab. For 100 cabs, the aggregate of his bond would have to be only \$11,000, or \$110 a cab.

It is our observation that the 10-cent weekly rider's service to the public for taxicabs there is obviously a need. But they should be allowed to operate only under strict regulation of drivers and periodic inspection of equipment, and in no case under bonds which fail to insure the application in full of any word of damage against them.

Black Eye And Labor Unions Wonder Who Gave Them a Bad Name

Organized labor gave itself another black eye last night. This time it was an American exhibit at the Kansas City Fair. The International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, that kicked over the traces in Kansas City and committed a blood-brooded act of sabotage.

At midnight the strikers pulled masks from their faces and began to beat the drums at the Kansas City Power & Light Company, backing out the entire city. The city wasn't expecting a strike. Hospital operating rooms were thrown into darkness while surgeons were making incisions. Babies—on a chariot of wheels—were borne by candle light. A two-year-old boy, his chest muscles paralyzed by infantile paralysis, lay in a respirator made useless by the power failure while attendants stood by in a dim artificial respiration. Automobiles and burglar alarm circuits were broken and over the entire city rose the wails of sirens and the clanging of bells.

Why did the AFL union strike? Here is the obvious answer: They got it all. They backed out Kansas City in an attempt to force the members of another union—an independent outfit—to join their own organization. The independent union, including over-200 members, had been in the hands of a company-dominated outfit by a regional labor board. The company appealed to the Mediation Board. That group declared yesterday that it was a part of the labor board and the U. S. Board of Appeals is now hearing the case. Appeals had been set for October 11.

Not rather than allow the dispute to be settled by due process of law, the AFL union has chosen to force the issue. With the same hot-headedness that is fast giving all unions a bad name, these men struck to break off the power. In so doing

they wiped out a million words spouted from the mouths of sincere labor leaders, words intended to persuade the public that organized labor is sober, responsible and respectable.

It is not until Governor O'Donnell of Missouri called out the home guard and threatened the strikers with force that the power was turned on again. This was no labor quarrel; it was insurrection, pure and simple. The safety of almost half a million persons was imperiled by the defiance of a few hundred.

If the agents of Nazi Germany or any other foreign power had crept into the Kansas City powerhouse last night and cut out the power, the whole people of this country would be excited and outraged. There would be a shout for punishment of those guilty of the crime.

An American labor union has done just that, motivated by self interest, yet its members will be held guiltless in all courts—save that of public opinion.

Urgency If Russia Doesn't Get Help Quick, The Outlook Is Bad

For two or three weeks now British and American government officials like Mr. W. Averell Harriman and Lord Beaverbrook have been making an overture of urgency in all their statements concerning aid to Russia. There is a very simple reason why planes and tanks and technicians must be sent to Russia quickly if they are to be effective. It is not that the Russian army is being defeated, but it is so important that it will bear repeating here.

During the three months of war with Germany, Russia has been using munitions of all sorts—especially planes and tanks—and it is so important that it will bear repeating here.

But so great has been the rate at which cannon, tank, and plane have been expended on the battlefield that the hour of munitions bankruptcy in the Soviet is within sight. If England and America allow Russia to run out of munitions, the Soviets will be forced to make peace with Hitler within a fortnight. The upshot of such a peace would certainly mean that Britain would have to choose between surrender and invasion of the coast to withstand the invasion. Britain would face a combination of might so powerful that only the most optimistic would give her a chance of survival. She would go down fighting and that would leave the United States friendless and hopeless, with no prospect of being able to withstand the German-dominated world in army, navy, or air force. This nation would fall into Hitler's palm like an over-ripe raspberry.

The Russians admit that the German armies in the Ukraine have crossed the Dnieper River in several places and are now in a position to threaten the great industrial area in the Donets basin. Already the important network of industries around Leningrad has been paralyzed by German and Finn beetles. The steel mills of Dnieperopetrovsk are gutted. If the Donets basin is occupied by the Nazis, or cut off from the remainder of the Soviet, Russia will be left without a single important "heavy industry" area.

Even with all of her productive facilities she could not have produced munitions at the rate they were being expended. With her production paralyzed the situation is infinitely worse, even deplorable.

That is why a wing of the RAF was sent to Russia, why every tank turned out in British factories next week will go to the Eastern Front, why British and American delegates are hurrying to Moscow to set up a schedule of delivery. Upon the speed and quantities of the deliveries hangs the new slender thread of Russian resistance and, perhaps, the outcome of the whole war.

What would Alexander the Great have to say if he came back today? We fancy the first crack would be, "What's aluminum?"

If we are what we eat, as the dictators contend, look for trouble in the Far East, where the rationed Japanese is lurching on whales.

Control Of The Seas

By Hugh S. Johnson

WASHINGTON.—The die was cast in favor of our entrance into the world war, when the British columnists, in the hands of the editor of the New York Times, published a long and elaborate editorial, headed "The President's 'shoot first' speech was so sure to follow after that sooner or later it would follow a night."

Long ago the British columnists wrote: "A ton of munitions on the docks of Liverpool is of vital value to the British. A ton of munitions in the hands of our troops is a great aid to our defense. But a ton of munitions at the bottom of the Atlantic is of no value to anybody but Hitler." If there are great losses of this precious American "shoot first" speech, now one will be before our own public is going to ask: "Are we spending three billions just to sink them in the sea?"

Engagement In War Was Inevitable

THE EDITORIAL HAS advocated a different course—aid to Britain but with a greater legislative control over its disposition and without delegating to the President an almost unlimited power to engage us in war at any time and at any place on the earth's surface. However, when the lend-lease bill was passed, it was only a matter of time before the present menacing conditions were unavoidable and that engagement in war was only a matter of time. The nearer such a time approaches the less latitude we shall have in the selection of a selective direction. I have not criticized the President's "shoot first" speech, because I think it was a logical and inevitable consequence of the events that came before it.

Argument Could Have Been Made

But it does seem to me that the argument it contained could have been more convincing and rational—especially that part about "freedom of the seas." It is not only the ancient American doctrine of sea-rights of neutral nations to engage in peaceful commerce, but it is also a modern doctrine of sea-rights of neutral nations to engage in peaceful commerce. That is, it is a modern doctrine of sea-rights of neutral nations to engage in peaceful commerce. That is, it is a modern doctrine of sea-rights of neutral nations to engage in peaceful commerce.

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There is no more freedom of the seas. That's the cause for our entry into the war. It was one of the principal paragraphs in Mr. Wilson's fourteen-point program, and it was the British who scuttled it. They wanted domination of the seas, and they got it by their own kind of understanding with us.

But this is important—I was asked to tell him—"Why don't you get in here—see? We paid for seats on that bus, and by cracky, we're sitting on the floor." "Lissen, chump, do you wanta fight? Just step out here in this alley." "Hey, what's going on here?" comes the voice of a superior officer who arrives from the background. "Let's not have such a disturbance. Already the on-lookers are uttering."

All I wanted to do was tell the conductor that there'll be an extra bus along to transport a hunk of this mob," sulkily muttered the civilian, walking off with a disgruntled air.

Does Sound Just A Bit Chinese, Though

This is a story they tell in Providence. Seems a very brisk, loquacious girl was traveling by the night bus from Woods Hole to Nantucket. While she was taking a stroll on deck, she was approached by two young men who pointed to the horizon, where a string of four lighthouses was visible in the distance. "What are those lights?" the girl pointed at each one and gave their names: "East Point, West Point, Chappaquidick, Pog." "What did she say?" the man inquired. "The other passenger is intended to draw your attention to what I think is a right serious neglect of attention to our troops. I was in Asheville last Monday and the Asheville papers carried a long account of the coming, next day, of a brigade of Artillery from Fort Bragg on its way to Plagah Mountain, and incidentally gave the itinerary of the troops homeward bound, and Charleston was included in this itinerary as a result of the elaborate writing-up of the Asheville papers. I noticed on my return through Charlotte that along the route where this brigade was expected to pass, there were signs along the road to see the troops and to give them a welcome. School children were let out and were lined up along the road. This was true all the way from Asheville to Marion.

Publicity For Itinerant Brigade

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On my trip I passed the entire brigade and personally found it to be a very thrilling sight. The thing that impressed me most, however, was the evident pleasure of the soldiers in being greeted by the population. I expected every day to see a notice of their coming to Charlotte in one of the papers. It may have been there, but diligent search on my part failed to find it. Apparently, as far as I can find out, these men came through Charlotte at some time during the day and received no more attention than if they had been a train of ordinary commercial transport trucks. I feel that our newspapers have failed in a contribution to the morale of our young men in the Army. I think it is perfectly obvious to say that these young men feel as though they should get a welcome from the people they are being asked to protect in their life and property. I cannot forget the enthusiasm and high spirit with which these men responded to the greeting they got in the Western part of the state, and I can imagine this feeling being pretty badly deflated as they came through the confines of the Friendly City. We civilians can do our part to help morale—and I certainly think that the newspapers failed in this instance.

ALBERT MILMOW 107 Letta Arcade Charlotte, N.C.

Suggestion for Opening Streets

Editors, The News: I have noticed that you have asked for suggestions as to improvements to be made around the city to be included in the ten year plan that they are figuring on. I would like to suggest opening up West First Street from Mint clear through Wesley Heights to the old Camp Green Road. In fact, it might be well if it was opened up all the way through the old Bulwark Mill, for at the present time West Trade Street through Sevilleville and West Morehead Street are the only outlets in that direction.

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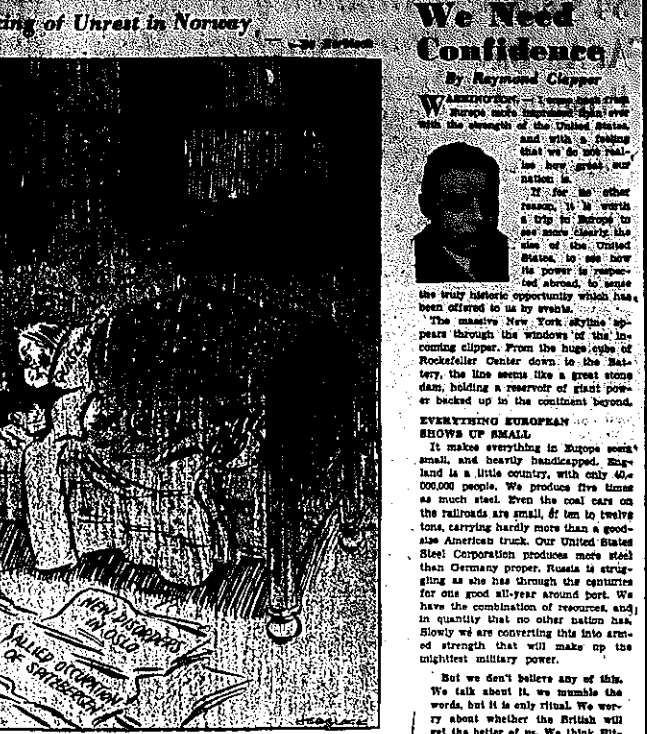
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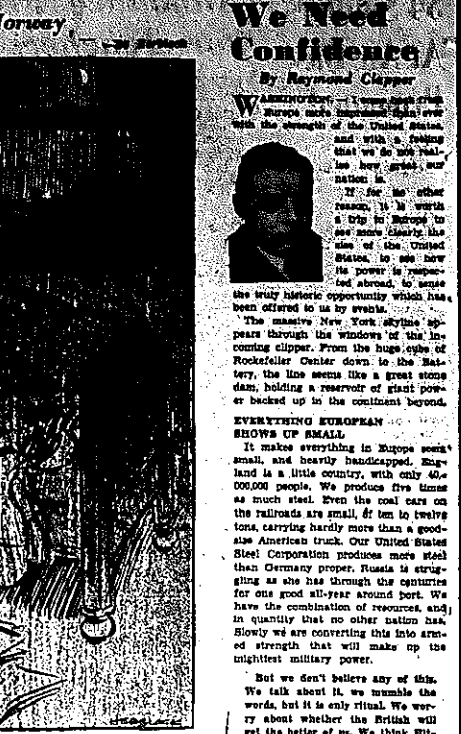
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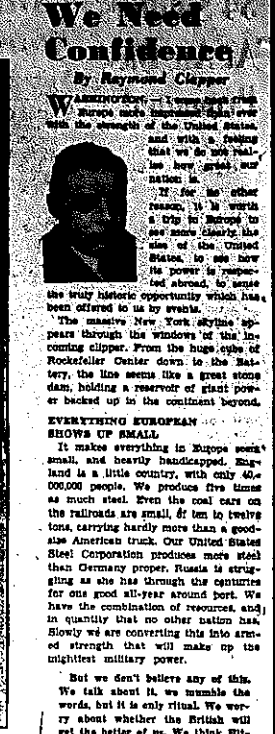
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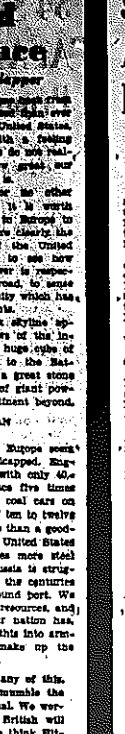
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