THE CHARLOTTE NEWS

And Evening Chronicle

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● W. C. Dowd, 1865-1927 ●

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MONDAY, MAY 31, 1943

Turning Tide

War Progress Resembles That Of First World War

The "perfectly indisputable turning of the tide" is seen by Prime Minister Chuchill in the Tunisian victory and the general success of Allied operations during the last ten months. The war against submarines also is going very well, the Prime Minister said at his White House press conference, with "killings" of U-boats steadily increasing.

While there is a general conviction in Allied capitals that the tide has turned against the Axis in the war in Europe, if not in the Pacific, historians may have difficulty in fixing the precise date and place of its turning—whether in the Autumn of 1942 at El Alamein or Stalingrad or after the Anglo-American landings in North Africa.

The turning of the tide in the war against the submarine appears to have taken place some time last Winter or during the early Spring of this year. Allied tonnage sunk in 1942 is reported by the Truman committee to have averaged 1,000,000 tons a month—a figure at first denied but later confirmed by the Navy Department. Losses are admitted to have been heavy in January and February, but the bulk of the sinkings must have been in areas remote from the North African convoy routes, for it was officially announced in mid-May that 11,000,000 tons of shipping had moved from the United States and the United Kingdom to Algerian and Moroccan ports during the six months, Nov. 8, 1942 to May 8, 1943, with a loss of only 2.16 per cent of the total traffic.

Secretary of the Navy Knox took a gloomy view of the situation earlier in the year, but he has since announced that submarine sinkings were smaller in March than in February, and smaller in April than in March—and these statements have received partial confirmation from Berlin. On Tuesday of this week Knox said that, despite the improved conditions for submarine attack afforded by Spring weather in the North Atlantic, May had been a "very encouraging month to date."

In World War I the turn in the undersea war came in the late Summer of 1917, at a time when Haig's offensive toward the channel ports was making little progress and the outlook for decisive Allied success in land operations on the western front was anything but promising. At the beginning of 1917, the Germans had about 120 submarines.

In May, the Admiralty undertook an experiment with convoying merchant ships, which immediately proved an unqualified success. At the same time shipbuilding was pushed to the limit in both the United States and Great Britain, the depth bomb and the submarine chaser were developed, a system of scouting with hydroplanes was instituted, and "killings" of U-boats began to rise.

On the western front, it was not until after the Second Battle of the Marne, with nine American divisions in the line, that the Allies were able to undertake a sustained general offensive. At the height of this battle Marshal Foch wrote a famous memorandum: "The Allied armies have reached the turning point of the road . . . The moment has come to abandon the general defensive attitude . . . and to pass to the offensive." Earlier he had written: "The decisive year of the conflict will be 1919."

The German commander, General von Ludendorff later said Aug. 8, 1918 (end of the Battle of the Marne) was "the black day of the German Army in the history of the war . . . It put the decline of our fighting power beyond all doubt." By the end of September, Ludendorff was demanding that Berlin initiate negotiations for peace, while the German Army could still hold out in the field. Before the end of October, Ludendorff's resignation had been accepted; a fortnight later the Armistice was signed and all hostilities in World War I ceased at 11 A. M. on Nov. 11, 1918. A repetition of that history lies ahead.

Lord Jim

FDR Did Himself Proud In Appointment Of Byrnes

The anointment of Jim Byrnes as lord and master of the home front at war should do a great deal to settle conditions in the country. Coming at a moment when business men were beginning to fear that the Government would retreat all down the line in the face of pressure for higher prices and higher wages, the commissioning of Czar Byrnes brings new hope. It brings hope because the appointee is what he is: a gentleman of the South, a Southern Democrat with a touch of genius for conciliation, and a man who makes and seals friendships as easily as he breathes.

Franklin Roosevelt, often accused of waiting overlong to delegate authority somewhere in the Washington mess, could scarce have done better. Now, that Byrnes is to say grace over the whole huge table, and call the turn on Donald Nelson, William Jeffers, Prentiss Brown and Paul McNutt, the war economy of the country may be ready to roll into high gear, for a sustained drive at peak production strength. That, at least, is the Washington dream, and if it does not pan out as planned, then it will not be the fault of Jim Byrnes. Many another good man ahead of him has been broken in the clashing of the national will against numberless personal wills; but none other ever accepted such powers as he.

The conditions of his appointment are also sufficiently broad to insure success to the "assistant president." With the authority to say yes and no to all officials, however high, he has such a clear field as no man ever had. It may be said far in advance that Jim Brynes will never misuse that power. His great energies will be dedicated in typical fashion to the accomplishment of the great task at hand. More than any other man we think of in the maze of the bureaucracy-at-war, we admire and trust South Carolina's Jim Byrnes. We expect his contribution to victory to be considerable.

That Season

Wave Of Foolishness Hits Hard In New York

It may or may not turn out to be the Silly Season again, running close in behind an early Spring celebration of the ancient rites of mankind. It is yet too early to do more than sniff a trend, but the signs point very plainly toward the coming of another time of nonsense; or, perhaps, this business simply goes on forever in New York, or wherever man moves, and we miss the sparkling lines of comedy. The cases in point, however:

In New York, a woman juror, furious, told a judge that a male member of the jury had been intoxicated during 26 hours of deliberation. While locked up with other jurors for the night, the drunk "influenced us with grimaces and sneers." Sentence was postponed.

Mayor Fiorello La Guardia, punching a button for a practice air raid drill in certain Gotham schools, struck the wrong one, turned out about half the city on a false alarm. He found himself unable to furnish a satisfactory alibi.

In the Bronx, a 45-year-old woman went into a market to buy a chicken, protested that the butcher had sold her one with "the best part" missing (didn't say which piece). She reported to police that the butcher, upon receiving the complaint, had banged her on the head ten times with a slab of beef.

Yes, gay old times in Little Old N. Y.

Little Attu

Its Conquest Starts Japan On the Road Back Home

The American conquest of Attu may not seem of great consequence at this time, but even as the first U. S. soil recaptured from the enemy in the war, it is of importance. The seizure of the tiny isle also removes a threat of Jap invasion along the Aleutians; for Kiska, now virtually cut off, has not long to stand as an enemy base. Alaska and the Northwest are now safe.

The stories of the incredible fighting conditions prevailing on Attu reflected glory upon the troops which drove in, inched forward over the dreary, rocky terrain and finally mopped up the island. The campaign is not to be remembered, we venture, as a turning point of the war against Japan, or as one of the great actions of military history; but it is enough for Americans. Their army, once in sufficient force, swept the enemy before it into the sea. It will be thus down the long swing to the islands of Japan.

In Washington, a distinguished and busy solon still refuses to have anything to do with the dial phone. On account, one imagines, of having a finger in

Safety In Numbers

Too Much Government?

By Samuel Grafton

NEW YORK

LET us note that a rebellion against bureaucracy has broken out on the floor of the House of Commons. A number of honorable members are of the opinion that British Government agencies have too much power. They are especially vexed about the growth of administrative rules and orders, which control the lives of every man, woman and child.

When the same fight flares up in our own House of Representatives, as it does every Tuesday and Thursday, the opposition customarily declares that the Administration is deliberately fostering rule-by-agency because it has a hankering to change the country forever, propelling it swiftly in a leftward direction. But the majority power in the British Government is Conservative. If there is anything Mr. Churchill does not want to do it, it is to change Britain. He has spent a long Winter working on the problem of how to pat the Beveridge (social security) Plan on the back, without adopting it.

If Mr. Churchill is moving leftward, it is like the movement of the glaciers: maybe you can prove it by instruments, but you can't see it.

Yet there is Mr. Churchill, with as much "bureaucracy" around him as Mr. Roosevelt; even more. He has some administrative agencies which would make Mr. Clare Hoffman, of Michigan, explode, simply explode, after a single glance. One British agency has the power to crook its finger at any well-born lady, or at any P. G. Wodehouse-type gentleman of leisure, and tell him to go to work in a factory; and not only that, but it can tell him which factory; and not only that, but he can't quit.

What, then, does the existence of a diversity of administrative agencies tell us about the character of a government? The answer is that it tells us precisely nothing, except maybe that this is the twentieth century.

The liberal Government of the United States has administrative agencies which tell the citizens when they may drive their cars, but the conservative Government of Great Britain has administrative agencies which can (and do) tell their citizens to sell out their foreign investments and turn the dollar proceeds over to the Government, in exchange for domestic currency. Government could hardly be more intimate with its people than that.

So the argument that creation of a wealth of administrative agencies tells us something special and sinister about the character of a government, fails to earth. The purpose of an agency is important, the work it does is significant; and certainly there is a difference between America's National Youth Administration, which, with Congressional sanction, teaches trades to sixteen-year-olds, and Germany's Luftwaffe Auxiliary, which, on Hitler's order, takes fifteen-year-old boys away from their families and trains them to be swine, in barracks specially built for the purpose. But to attack agencies as agencies, just because they are agencies, just because they exist, is merely babble.

Yet the Clare Hoffman cabal does attack all agencies, and the agency idea. This obsession has become the very center of its universe. It is thus forever singing reverse love songs to the dead Nineties.

This choice of a wholesale approach to government, rather than an intelligent retail approach, leads the opposition party into strange paths. A poll of the Senate has been able to locate only two Republicans who will promise to oppose a crippling amendment to the reciprocal trade pacts. They hate government-by-agency so much (at least they say this is the motive) that they are willing to kill the trade pacts, write themselves down as isolationists, and confound and dismay our allies—all this, in pursuit of an abstraction.

"The Winnah"

—By Dorman Smith

Platform Of The People

The Republican Heroes

Editors, THE NEWS:

Kindly allow me to express exception to your recent editorial wherein you accuse the Republican plotters of trying to sabotage the peace while the people of the country look the other way, and the Democrats struggle helplessly. I am surely glad to know that the Democrats are cooling off a little and the Republicans gained enough power to throw a sprag in Franklin Roosevelt's wild reign.

If you think the tempo of Warren G. Harding was a wild reign it seems to me like we ought to call Webster out of the grave to name this one. If the Republicans have picked up a couple of renegade votes it must have been the Republican suckers the Democrats persuaded to vote a third term and break one of our finest traditions, and now are trying to reform. If the amendment to the reciprocal trade agreement means the American renunciation of everything we are fighting for in this war we ought to hang every Republican and let the Democrats have the whole mess.

It looks like you favor this policy and the Democrats are trying to establish what you call a gentlemen's agreement so tight and permanent that even a Republican President and Republican-dominated Congress cannot change it. You also state that the party seeks to return to the old isolation of high tariff as protection for American business and industry. If that is what you call isolation we better quit persecuting the isolationists.

And any person that is not interested in protecting our own business and industry is not a good American, and any official at Washington who does not protect our own interests first ought to be fired and put in jail with the balance of the saboteurs. You also say tariffs and trade barriers have twice bred war, have often ruined the economy of nations. Meaning the Republicans caused the wars, and I have been noticing by the papers about everything that goes wrong with the United States, the Republicans caused it. Please tell me how the Republicans could cause this dilemma we are now in when we had a Democratic President for the last eleven years, with practically a free hand in running things, and I am sure that the tariffs were not too high and our American business and industry have not been protected? If tariffs and trade barriers have twice bred war the hatching was done by a Democratic President.

I don't know who laid the eggs but the truth of history says the three major wars of our country were actually hatched out under a Democratic President. Talk about your ancient and rock-bound Republican prejudices causing another explosion all you like they never were guilty of opening the door and buying products from every corner of the globe and making other countries rich while restricting and crippling our own business and industry by importing the very goods and materials we were producing in our own country and putting our able-bodied workers on relief.

During this administration much of our relief money indirectly went to Germany and Japan to build their destructive weapons of war. The Bible said, He that provideth not for his own household denieth the faith and is worse than an infidel. Call me what you like I still believe in providing for our own National Household first.

—P. C. BURKHOLDER.

RFD 5.

Counter-Attack From Thomasboro

Editors, THE NEWS:

With reference to the item on the editorial page from Hoskins last week:

First, I wonder if they know that the clipping I had reference to was the one about a certain place being closed which was printed as being in Thomasboro, when in fact it is not.

Seems that some people get the wrong impression of what I was trying to convey to the newspapers — that everytime something happened at either place—good or bad—it is always printed as if it is one and the same community.

I didn't mean any offense toward the PEOPLE of Hoskins for I know many real nice, good families there—as the Campbells, Morgans, Longs, Lassiters, Hartlines and McCalls and maybe some others which I just can't recall.

I hope every community has their own stores, churches and school of which they are justly proud and are not criticized for saying so. As for people working there, I think there are also many who come from Charlotte too, but you never see any news of a connection of the two.

We also work in a number of other different places and we too work and make an honest living, and are still proud of Thomasboro.

—MRS. LOY BEAM.

Thomasboro.

Quote, Unquote

The people of America know that the airplane, the radio, mass production and other scientific inventions have changed the world. They know there is no place in the world of tomorrow for a hermit nation.
—Lieut. Comdr. Harold E. Stassen, ex-Minnesota Governor.

A constant world-wide interchange of information can help us achieve an enduring peace as surely as it is now helping us to win this war.
—Associate OWI Director Milton S. Eisenhower.

they have no place in the world, nothing to look forward to in the future, then they may became ready to follow a leader like Hitler, who promises them a place of usefulness.
—Prof. Max Werthemer of the New School for Social Research, New York.

For three weeks at a flying field in the desert the only water obtainable was in the coffee served three times a day. Then I got a chance to hitch-hike a ride in a transport plane to a city where I could get a bath. I flew 1,200 miles all told it was worth every mile.
—General Electric representative, back from Middle East.

When the wars are over and the victory is won there may be a loud clamor to "send the boys home." If the demobilization is disorderly it may well be a devastating shock to our society. Millions of young men will have to be absorbed. The problem demands our best thinking and planning, lest account to chaotic demobilization we lose the very democratic principles for which we fight.

Side Glances

"I'm going back to the city next Fall and join the Marines—it'll be fun after playing tag with these ornery mules all Summer!"

Unwanted Traffic

Nazis On Leave

By Raymond Clapper

STOCKHOLM

MOST of the criticism among Swedes of their own Government's position regarding the war is related to the German troop trains that are being allowed to run through Sweden carrying Germany soldiers to and from Norway.

This so-called "leave traffic" is the focus of intense criticism by the opposition, and of hard feelings on the part of the Norwegians against the Swedes. The pressure is so strong that I have found a number of Government officials predicting that the German "leave traffic" will be stopped in the next few months.

It is hard to know whether such predictions will be fulfilled, because there is a certain timidity in high places here which might prevent such action. Unquestionably public sentiment is in favor of ending the traffic. When I was in Gothenburg recently prominent citizens, including local officials, spoke indignantly about it and referred to the traffic as shameful.

Torgny Segerstedt, Sweden's firebrand editor, has criticized the Government unmercifully for tolerating this traffic, which the Government allowed to go on secretly for some time, beginning after the Norwegians capitulated in the Summer of 1940.

The Prime Minister tried to talk Mr. Segerstedt out of his bitter criticism. That failed. Then the King summoned him. What transpired is a matter of gossip, and it has produced some good anecdotes which may or may not be legendary. Anyway, Segerstedt continued his criticism of the Foreign Office, particularly of Foreign Minister Christian E. Guenther, who takes it philosophically.

It is a shock, in a neutral country, to see a long train of German soldiers moving twice a day through Sweden, carrying about a thousand troops each trip.

One can understand how officials anxious to keep Sweden out of war hesitated to resist the German demands back in 1940. The Nazis had conquered Norway and were overrunning Europe. They could easily have occupied Sweden, and many people here are still amazed that Hitler omitted to do so. But this is not 1940. Germany is shortening her lines rather than extending them. She is in no position to open a new front in Sweden. It would cost her much more than she could get from it. The Swedes of Gothenburg scoff at the nervousness of Stockholm on this point.

I am convinced that Swedish sentiment is with us. Also that most of the high officials are with us personally. But there is still a fear of the Nazis, which seems now to be explained more by habit than by realities. I have had the explanation offered to me that bureaucratic influences arising out of timidity, perhaps affected by certain earlier backgrounds, account for the discrepancy between the strongly pro-Ally sentiment of the press, the Social Democratic Party, labor, and scores of leading citizens I have talked to, on the one hand, and the extremely timid policy of the Foreign Office on the other.

I cannot be too sure of the explanation, but it seems beyond argument that such a discrepancy exists. In fact, when officials say privately that public pressure will force an end to the German troop traffic, that in itself seems an admission that the Government's policy is out of line with popular opinion.

People in Washington who knew Hans Thomsen when he was in the German Embassy there will be be interested to know that Frau Thomsen has arrived here, where her husband is Minister, and that she is criticizing the Nazis at dinner parties as she did in Washington. Apparently the Thomsens are working both sides of the street here just as they did in the United States.

Land Of Love

Island Story

Greensboro Daily News

THERE'S something about an island that gets you. Sergeant Pete Vasilie, who hails from St. Paul, Minn., has bought 100 acres of New Britain Island at 63 cents an acre from a Sydney bank; he flew over it so often on bombing missions that he got to like it. And Marine Lieutenant Austin White has bought an island in the Coral Sea for $750 and has written his fiancee in Cincinnati to be ready to set up housekeeping there as soon as he gets through with some unfinished business.

Before the war started Hitler said that there were no islands any more. He was even more wrong than usual. There are more islands now than anybody ever heard of before; this is a regular island war; little, humble islands heretofore unknown even to geographers are now in the headlines.

People love islands. They can't forget the colors of dawn over the mountains of Madeira or the rich green amphitheater of the hills of Formosa—hermosa, the beautiful, in Spanish—seen from the sea in the orange glow of sunset, while blue streamers of supper smoke rise from the peasants' huts. Yes, there are plenty of islands left—Mytilene, Lemnos, Samothrace, Ceylon, islands of spice in the Celebes, Shameen in the middle of Canton, Luzon, Mindanao, the Hawaiians as richly colored as cathedral windows, Tahiti and the Samoans.

An island is where "Earth, Ocean, Air, beloved brotherhood," as Shelley put it, meet. Ulysses got his weary warriors to take up their oars again by telling them that they might reach "the Happy Isles." Most of us will have to get to our islands by way of Joseph Conrad and Somerset Maugham, but lots of Americans after this war when they look out of the window at an interminable mid-February sleet will want to take passage to some island which straddles the equator. And quite a few will do it, too. No spot on earth is more than 60 hours' flying distance from us now. There will be plenty of planes and plenty of pilots who have learned to get to islands by the light of the Swan, the Eagle and the Southern Cross.

We predict a boom in the postwar island business.

Visitin' Around

Prob'ly What They Said

(Revere Item, Marshall News-Record)

Mr. and Mrs. Zachary Gunter

Uh Huh

(Arcadia Item, Lexington Dispatch)

J. L. Zimmerman has been nursing a real black eye. But he