

# THE CHARLOTTE NEWS

And Evening Chronicle

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W. C. Dowd, 1955-1977

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FRIDAY, AUGUST 28, 1942

## It's Cooking

### Canada's Commander Speaks Of An Immediate Offensive

Months of Second Front speculation by civilians has done nothing to strengthen Allied morale, simply because the front didn't come. Such a problem, it was insisted, was for the military. The High Command would make its own decision. When military men began making their own talk on the subject, the time for a drive was drawing nigh. Most promising words spoken recently came yesterday from Canada's Lieut. General Andrew McNaughton.

Look at your geography," he said. "England has big British and Canadian armies ready, and American, too. If any one thinks we're going to sit here on this side of that ditch and do nothing, they have another think coming." The General also found a practical use for the lessons of Dieppe, whether that raid has been made a success or failure in the histories.

The extensive preparations for opening a big offensive, he reasoned, are the most difficult part of the job. Now that those plans have been once laid, and carried out, the rest should be easy. Studies and plans, combined with British, Canadian and American forces will go through the motions set up at Dieppe. The program indicated seems to be an advance from Commando raids to major invasion.

As American strength in Britain grows, our part in the conflict to come is more apparent. Large numbers of Air Force ground crews and maintenance men indicate only one thing: American fields are to be set up quickly in England, and they will be ready to move across the Channel once an area has been made safe for Democracy's fighters.

The days of speculation and debate, apparently, are nearly over. A man who has been frequently mentioned as Allied Commander in the Continental area has definitely pointed the way. As soon as the results from Dieppe have been studied with information previously gained, the program will roll. And the memory of Dieppe, still a high point in the story of the war for us, will become a minor operation. McNaughton might as well have said that we are almost ready for the big push.

## Yes Or No?

### Labor Board Hands Down Another Unique Ruling

It turns out, under the War Labor Board's interpretation, that a contract is a "purely legalistic" instrument, resting on "grounds of form and not of substance." This astonishing decision came out on July 22, which means that the contract remained in effect until Aug. 9. One of the union's demands was for an increase in pay equal to that awarded by the Labor Board in the Little Steel case and for that increase retroactive, as it was in Little Steel, to Feb. 15.

The War Labor Board, its four employer members vehemently dissenting, granted the retroactive demand. Dean Morse, a public member on the board, wrote the decision. Wage adjustments follow an industry-wide pattern, he said. Hence, when the Little Steel wage question came before the board in February, with no chance of its being settled for some months, it would have been foolish for Big Steel labor to wait until a precedent was established in the Little Steel case, and with the precedent established, "it would be highly unrealistic," he said, "to expect maximum production from workers who, in all equity, were entitled to a basic wage adjustment on the purely legalistic grounds of form and not of substance."

How absurd, not to say indignant, is this reasoning the little reader may determine for himself by constructing an opposite case. Suppose that the Little Steel case, opened in February, had resulted in a WLB order

for wages to be reduced by so much. Suppose then that U. S. Steel had reopened its case and on this ground that it had not wanted to open it earlier for fear of disturbing conditions in the steel industry, asked for a reduced wage in Big Steel to be made retroactive to the February date of the opening of the Little Steel case. Would the War Labor Board have granted it? What do you think?

## Good Job

### Chief ARW Westbrook Has One To His Credit

Tonight at some time between 9:30 and 10 o'clock, Chief Air Raid Warden Cliff Westbrook will sit down to a telephone and call out some 2,600 air raid wardens. Not that Mr. Westbrook will himself dial his finger ring, or that any one man could, in the few minutes between the blue (they're coming) and the red (they're here) signals, do much about issuing an advance warning. But what will be done, and when the sirens sound the 2,600 air raid wardens will already have debouched upon the residential, industrial and retail districts of the town.

And in dozens here they will testify to the excellence of the organization which Mr. Westbrook has set up. Organization has been his main task throughout. Without it, the air raid warden service would be an aggregation of overlapping and misdirected confusion. As it is, all the 2,600 wardens are responsive to his direction, know where to go, what to do.

It hasn't come about overnight, nor over a few score of days and nights. For six months or so Mr. Westbrook has given lavishly of his time, at what must have been the sacrifice of all other interests. His resignation comes only after the major part of the job, its organization, has been done, and a going service may be turned over to his successor.

## Down Payment

### Brazil Declares War, and Gets Planes on Next Mail

We are inclined to leave to others the debate as to whether the acquisition of ally Brazil should be written as asset or liability; to us the hemisphere's biggest nation is not so much more coastline to be guarded, but a long step toward real American solidarity. But what concerns us immediately is the welcome we have given the newest warriors among us.

The sound of the war declaration by President Vargas still echoed in his country when the flight of the 44 intermediate United States planes roared into Rio. They would be copied in Brazilian plants. They would be flown in the landing of a Brazilian air force. They would place outmoded German Focke-Wulf's. Most of all, things assured that they would open Brazilian eyes. The United States could, and did, help her Allies.

For long weeks those planes had lain in U. S. ports, crated up and waiting shipment to Brazil. Hence, when the Focke-Wulf's closed that route to the south, they were shipped back to factories, uncrated, assembled, and flown in 500-mile hops the 9,000 miles to their new home. Such a move was made to order for the situation, and for the eyes of Brazil's warring neighbors.

It was not, by any means, the first step in bringing Brazil to our point of view. It was, instead, a climax of the long battle, fought by Franklin Roosevelt and Cordell Hull and Sumner Welles, to knit together the Americas. Brazil, like Argentina and Chile, had shown Axis leanings for years. But upon patronizing commercial relations, those leanings were difficult to overcome.

Among other things, the winning of the Brazilian battle of diplomacy took: A U. S. credit of \$120,000,000, given in March, 1939; the cultivation of Brazilian military leaders (in 40 General Góes Monteiro, visiting in Washington, was scheduled to go home via Rome and Berlin, to review Axis troops. Instead, he was flown home direct, by U. S. bombers); helping build Brazil's army, early influenced by the Nazis in 1938. Banded integralists tried a coup against Vargas.

It was a long battle, perhaps a relatively unimportant one as battles go today. But the point is that Brazil is ours, and not of the Axis—and trigger-critical action after months of diplomatic wangling will keep her a satisfied customer and ally.

## Labor Twist

By Paul Mallon

MEMBERS of the War Labor Board have been tearing out what little hair they have left.

After a year of the unbreachable yardstick of living index for labor wage increases, the board now finds the first violation of its own rule. In the General Motors wage case, it is expected to make a boardman that something when you consider that they went to all the trouble in the Little Steel case to tell labor that they would not be granted increases had failed to make up for 10 per cent swelling in the cost of living, since January, 1941.

That policy had been strictly followed by the board until the 14-14 panel came in the other day with new formula. It recommended an increase based, not on the cost of living, but on what Henry Ford's words were making across the street.

If the panel had followed the board formula, it would have suggested an increase of 1.2 cents an hour, because General Motors workers have had the rest of the 15 per cent hike since January 1941. (The company claims their wages have been increased 50 per cent since the war started in 1938.) But the panel recommended an increase of 15 per cent, or, simply because Ford's rates are higher.

That set the board to dithering. It faced the alternative of allowing down its own panel, or its own policy. If it was the first to violate its yardstick, there was strong prospect it might lose the confidence of the country. The military and its predecessors have done, if it over-ruled its panel, it would have to go to court from the CIO. What to do?

Frankly, most of the boardmen would like to see Paul McNutt's right hand man, Fowler Harper, who was chairman of the panel, and the very high administrator who Mr. Harper who cast the deciding vote to give the board its present policy.

One other panel member was a CIO man, Patrick Fagan, who naturally wanted a top increase. And the third was William H. Doran of the Metropolitan Edison Co., a business man whose representative who wanted a 1-1-2 cent increase.

Not only for this but for other reasons, McNutt and his staff around town have lately been taking some strong sideline castings from very high administrative officials.

The general assumption is that McNutt, in 1941, and that he might have a chance if his manner of handling the matter of enterprises would stop making a decision every now and then which would be a matter of ground of political expediency.

For a long time he was looked on mainly as a handsome fellow, and he ran for the Democratic Presidential nomination last time largely on that ground. Now, after working with him awhile, the Administration gurus are willing to concede he is smart, but a little too smart on the politics side.

Perhaps they also mean he is too smart for his own good, at any 1944 nomination is likely to need White House approval, and getting the Labor Board into an inextinguishable embarrassment is not going to help him that way.

## Five Good Reasons

From Log Book

"YOU say you've never had any experience selling in our industry?"

"That's right."

"What selling?"

"Have you ever studied advertising or salesmanship?"

"No."

"Then why did you come in here and ask for a salesman's job?"

"I've got a brand new set of tires."

"Why didn't you say so in the first place? When do you want to start? How West Texas sell you?"

## TODAY'S BIBLE THOUGHT

If we even love our enemies who hate us, we shall win. This is my commandment, that ye love one another.—John 15:12.

## 34th Year of War

By Colonel Hugh J. Keener

(In The American Mercury)

We are at this moment witnessing one of the great ironies of our military history: the fact that the very men who fought the development of true air power, and who cleared from Pearl Harbor—were now reaching out for control of the military machine.

At the spectacle, in these grim days of the military machine, the movement is loaded with danger for our war effort.

A bill has been introduced in Congress which, a portion of our big four-engine bomber production will be turned over to the navy, and which would divide the equipment and shatter the unity of our most successful and significant aerial weapon.

The writer is unalterably opposed to the Navy's being given any further control of our air effort. In this, he believes, he voices the convictions of practically all experienced airmen. The Navy's record in relation to air power is one of consistent underachievement.

The admirals have failed to understand the dynamics of the new weapons, and have not been able to handle them honestly and passionately to head off or divert its emergence as a strategic force.

Let's reduce a complex matter to its bare bones, in a nutshell. If you were going to choose a commander to win the war, you would pick someone like Jimmy Doolittle, who figured out a way to get across the Atlantic, and who spent his life studying air strategy? Or would you pick someone like a naval aviator, who told the Navy's Affairs Committee in 1938: "Gentlemen, the battleship will be the last of modern weapons?"

Would you choose General Frank Andrews, who, in 1937, said: "The battleship will be the last of modern weapons." The Army, too, has plenty of sins against true air power.

Do not misunderstand me: I do not think that the air arm is a very efficient and very necessary adjunct, but it is only an adjunct to the Army, and it can be nothing else. Airships can never win a war; they can never win a battle.

One wonders how the naval mentality now reconciles such a thing as the transfer of the action off Midway Island, where long-range, land-based bombers were left to win a brilliant "naval" battle.

Earlier in the same year, Admiral Nimitz, almost broken, in a letter to the Navy, said: "The Navy is a separate peace with Hitler."

This is a repetition of last year's late Summer war of nerves: The Russians are collapsing; and it is their fate to be left alone, and the more the western allies send, the better for the Germans, who will inherit it. Last year the propaganda was quite successful. It was late before we began shifting help to Russia, and undoubtedly public opinion was greatly influenced by the German viewpoint.

Again, today, the Russians are in peril. It is possible that they will be cut off from their main air sources, and that the Canadian army will be separated from the Russian main army. Without minimizing the dangers, we must remember that even in that event, nine-tenths of the Russian army would still be intact.

Yet certain circles are again influenced by the idea that Russia may return to a pact with Germany. The old slogan is repeated: You can't trust Stalin. It is obvious that a general who is calculating with a separate Russian peace will favor other

## Milestones

By Raymond Clapper

WASHINGTON

IT is this day from Russia put us in mind of the fact that Russia is fighting to save her own present and future. And Russia is taking a beating. She may soon be rendered helpless to counter attack and may be forced to stubbornly determined to resist, but exhausted, lacking the weapons with which to drive our invader.

Russia sees out as a major fighting force, then the lead goes entirely on the British, India and the Middle East are in grave danger. If this sound alarmist, that's what it is meant to be. We are being put on notice. This war is being set for us. Russia goes out and we come in.

Fortunately, President Roosevelt has decided to address the country. It is to be hoped that he will take full advantage of this opportunity to lay it on the line.

During the last few days I have been thinking of France as it was in the early Summer of 1940. They thought they had the finest army in the world. They didn't know what was about to hit them. I think of France as it is today. They are being treated as if they were not there. They are being treated as if they were not there.

But that isn't enough. They are not driving hard enough. They have lead in their feet and lead in their heads. They put in long hours and work hard. Do they think hard? Are they thinking and reaching, or are they slugging along doggy to routine? Are they backing their judgments to be warped by prejudices, by jealousy, by a man's natural preference for traveling in old grooves and his natural resentment of a new idea that would jerk him out of familiar ruts? Or are they trying to do things instead of imaginative, creative, driving leaders?

What I mean is, why did old Kaiser get the ragnarok here? Why did he leave town feeling that he was pushed about? Why was it that behind his cargo-plane lies Donald Nelson? Why, when old Kaiser asked the War Department for information about some new experimental work on airplanes, was he pushed about? Why was it that he was trying to pry into military secrets? Why is Donald Nelson, head of the War Production Board, put under wraps in this affair because the services are against that he would be? Why is it that they wouldn't let Old Man Kaiser build a certain type of surface ship, desperately needed, until he kicked up so much dust that the President personally asked the Maritime Commission to pitch it? Except for the fact that it is a production now with those ships.

Why, with at least 80 per cent of the world's nickel on our side, and with other unmatched resources in raw materials, have we handled them so carelessly that we are running short while Germany, with meager resources, continues heavy war production? Everything can't be perfect. Nothing is ever good enough in war. But we will have to shake the lead out of our feet. Don't let us get it back to the grade against Hitler.

That report was never made public in Washington. Congressional committees demanded it repeatedly, but they were never able to get it. What friend of the leadership looked into it could expect to hit up to eleven per cent in any sustained attack on surface ships. It meant warships could no longer venture into waters dominated by hostile aviation.

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We will believe in air power. We are hoping that the President will soon invite our air commanders to his councils and let us say, the deck armor of a battleship can easily resist the impact of the most destructive shells. The most destructive shells reflected accurately the conceptions and at the mood of the Navy Command. But the Army, too, has plenty of sins against true air power.

First of all, the situation of Russia is not like that of France. France fell immediately, without really conducting the war. And there is no one in Russia with the nineteenth century mentality of Marshal Pétain who could think of this, as though it were 1918. Both Russia and Germany have spilled rivers of blood and billions of wealth in this fight. The campaign against Russia is only superficially against Communism

and actually against the whole Slavic world as the broadest treatment of Poles, Czechs, and Yugoslavs reveals.

Under these circumstances no Russian leader, depending upon mass support, could make peace with Hitler, and for an hour. But presume there were another Russian leader. What would Hitler be compelled to demand, as the reward to his own people for their unflinching loyalty? A minimum would be the Ukraine—the richest part of Russia. A minimum would be the Baltic or the Black Sea. A minimum would be the Slavic countries of Europe. A minimum would be a Russian agreement to disarm. For Hitler could still not wage war against the west with a reorganized Russian army in his rear. Hitler saw this the first time.

Let us stop playing the game of our enemies by lending an ear to rumors about Russia. The most successful campaign of the Axis so far has been to sow distrust among allies, and anyone who assists this campaign, even if he be named Reynolds and be head of the Military Affairs Committee of the Senate, is a public menace.

## Russia Warns Us

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## Visitin' Around

Advt.

(By Lexington Dispatch)

Miss "Ole" Ruth Wise is getting well fast since she left the hospital. Doctor Smith is certainly a fine carver of human flesh. He can cut 'em up and get 'em well in a short while.

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