

**Avoid Shame, But Do Not Seek Glory—Nothing So Expensive As Glory—SYDNEY SMITH**  
**"The Melancholy Days Are Come"**  
 —By Herblock

**Shocked General**  
**All Bad Draft**  
 By Raymond Clapper



WASHINGTON  
 SOMETIMES disturbing facts have come out in the testimony given by the draft age. They suggest we may have been weak on the planning right at the top. They indicate that Selective Service has been taking many of the wrong kind of men and that these already have become a liability to the Army, which is trying to get them back into civil life.  
 Selective Service is more than two years old. We have had that time—granting that a rush start had to be made—in which to select the men and to reveal the needs of the Army and the requirements of industry and agriculture, and certainly to be screening out men who would be a liability instead of an asset in service.  
 Yet General Marshall, Chief of Staff, stood before a Senate committee this week and told about visiting the Army hospital at Ft. Bragg. He was shocked at the age of the men. One was a good mechanic, 43 years old, drafted from the Dodge plant. He is in the hospital with an engine, hernia and two other ailments. Some of the other hospitalized men had been in the Army only a few weeks. General Marshall said such men were a burden and should have been kept at their machines. He said they were not increasing the Army's strength but reducing it, and that if this continued the Army would have to enlarge its hospital facilities before it even got into action. He said we have already had to bring men back from Australia because they were too old when they were sent out.  
 Secretary of War Stimson says too large a percentage of men over 40 are in the Army. The Army is getting too old already. Brig-Gen. White, Assistant Chief of Staff, testified that 20 per cent of the men already inducted are not fit for other than limited duties. Twenty per cent of the present Army is 40 or over.  
 These are not complaints of typewriter strategists. These are the facts stated by the Secretary of War, the Chief of Staff and his assistants. Anyone interested in the war cannot help but have some questions raised in his mind by the disclosure of these facts.  
 First, insofar as these conditions might be corrected by bringing 18- and 19-year-olds into the Army, why are we just getting around to it—two years after Selective Service was adopted, and ten months after Pearl Harbor? The Army has been adequate in this situation for a long time and has been wanting the draft age lowered. Why was it only this week that President Roosevelt finally gave the green light?  
 Mr. Roosevelt has blamed most of the trouble in Washington on Congressional investigations, subordinates who made ill-advised speeches, and the press and radio. Are they to blame for this neglect, too? Or could it possibly be that Mr. White House didn't get around to it until this week?  
 Second, does not this condition show something wrong with the Selective Service policy? Deferrals have been handled by local draft boards. It is considered the democratic way to allow a board to pass on the men in its own neighborhood. But in practice a board must produce a required number of men without devoting too much time to investigating essential needs of industry or agriculture in its area. The pressure to fill quotas also means often that medical examination is not adequate. The pressure has been for numbers rather than quality.  
 As a result some of the work will have to be undone. Men will have to be sent back to civil life. General Marshall says.  
 These questions are important because it is now being debated whether manpower allocation shall be handled through Selective Service or by some other organization. The Manpower Commission hasn't done much of a job yet. It is now apparent that Selective Service hasn't found the best kind of screen through which to pass men. There isn't much time to lose. The Army will be almost doubled next year. Labor and industry will need more help next year.  
 It looks as if this is something that needs more White House attention than it seems to have had up to now.

**Favoritism**  
 Congress Extends the Community-Property Dodge

Anybody who has done a little algebra knows that the more a man's tax rate he will have to pay next year will certainly have come smack up against the realization that for himself, as for millions of persons in the country, the effect will be the same as though he had suddenly acquired a new, back-breaking tax. With exemptions cut to \$10,000 a week for unmarried individuals, \$24,000 a week for heads of families, and with the tax rate commencing at a whopping 19 per cent, rising thereafter like a P-38 headed for the stratosphere, and with the vicious tax siphoning off income out of which these extraordinary income taxes will have to be paid, it is plain to see that something new and fearsome has been added to the budgets of American households and business establishments.  
 Taxes, mates, are going to do more than sting. They are going to give a good imitation of the bear hug.  
 Nobody is complaining, and nobody holds it against Congress. Quite the contrary; if Congress had shirked its duty and had put together a timid, mealy-mouthed tax bill, contempt would have been its reward.  
 It is worth noting, however, that in one particular, Congress has shirked its duty, and deliberately so. That was in falling to deal with the tax-dodge still obtaining in eight states whereby married couples may juggle the income of one or the other between them and so substantially reduce the amount of taxes due.  
 It is automatic that Federal taxes should fall equally on all citizens, no matter where they may reside. But inasmuch as Congress lacked the nerve to effectuate this fundamental principle, the other 40 states have no defense against inequity save to proceed to adopt similar provisions for the benefit of their residents.

report for examination within 24 hours, or be liable to the quarantine.  
 Any and all cases are to be isolated, and will remain so until a certified recovery. Violation of any of the rules is considered a misdemeanor—and any officer or employee of any health board in the state is empowered to detain any infected persons, providing they are not receiving treatment.  
 Cost of administering the concentrated drive is borne largely by the Federal Government, out of funds especially provided for the purpose (and apparently available to all states). For Georgia and the nation, the iron-clad law is a great forward step. Though several diseases have menaced the public health of many a state in the past two years, none has shown the courage to deal with them resolutely.  
 Following this example, we ask, why should not North Carolina (with a larger soldier population) act in a similar fashion to safeguard its health and that of the service men stationed in her borders? The recent fight against vice, especially prostitution, have sputtered spasmodically, and in isolated areas. Health officials have long since joined with the Army in insisting that we take no chances, and use every available weapon to fight the diseases. To state there has been no concentrated state-wide drive.  
 Here we have a real chance for betterment of ourselves and our society, and one which will not only provide a temporary safeguard. It would add to our future health.

**Tower Of Babel**  
**United Nations Groping**  
 By Dorothy Thompson

WASHINGTON  
 IGNORING other news, I continue to write about the international political situation at this moment. It is because it is the fundamental question of the whole war.  
 We are in the most critical moment of this war. This moment is not critical because of the military situation, which is better than we might have expected. But perhaps because it is better, an opportunity is given to groups and personalities—and even governments—to raise questions that would not have been raised if we were in a desperate military situation. These questions involve matters of political strategy.  
 The lack of a common political front even can affect the military strategy. For a united military strategy is only possible among allies that really trust one another.  
 We are not in a moment of critical danger from either the Germans or the Japanese. We are in danger of the fate that befell the cities of the Tower of Babel. That imposing structure, being built to touch the sky, fell because the workers could not speak a common language. That is a fascinating parable and warning.  
 If the builders had accepted the discipline of a plan, and had set the limitations of the structure and the freedom, but the site for such a structure already is occupied by those who are building a world of slavery. And that we have to get them out of the site.  
 For accomplishing both purposes—getting the enemies of freedom off the site and building the new structure—we have strictly limited means. They have been the forces of Great Britain and the British world, China, Russia, and America. These are enormous means—enough sufficient to remove slavery from the site and erect a world of freedom.

But we are now quarreling about the architecture of the building—before we have possession of the site. Some say we don't care for the British style—it's outmoded; others dislike the Russian style; they say, "Let the Russians build a tower of their own, but don't let them participate in our world building." There is a great deal of discussion about Oriental style—mostly by people who never have studied Oriental architecture. And, finally, there are Americans who will accept only a streamlined American skyscraper.  
 We can call this the fight of the ideologies among the United Nations. And the profound danger in this state of affairs is that one or another of the builders may fall into despair and decide to abandon the whole idea.  
 This already has happened in this war three times: At Munich, with the abandoning of the Franco-Russian alliance; at Moscow, with the signing of the Russo-German pact; and in the Spring of 1940 when France abandoned the project and even to all purposes—went over to the other builders.  
 If we review the history of this epochal struggle, one thing stands out—namely, that the Axis has won its major victories by politics. It has managed to divide and strike, thus picking off one victim after another. The breaking of the Franco-Russian pact destroyed France; the making of the Russo-German pact almost destroyed Russia; and the breaking of the Franco-Russian alliance, or even the serious crippling of those alliances, can destroy every one of us.  
 In all the babel about principles that has gone on for the last few weeks, one quiet, sensible word has been spoken by the least considered of our great allies: China. The voice of China spoke through T. V. Soong at a meeting in New York last Saturday night. Mr. Soong asked for an inter-allied political council—now. Such a council is the only way in which a synthesis of political aims can be achieved—and only the synthesis should be publicized.  
 We cannot fight out the enormous questions involving the leading powers of the world as though it were a Democratic-Republican election.

**High Stakes**  
 Solomons Struggle Is Fought For More Than Land Bases

While the struggle for the Solomons grows in intensity and exacts higher tolls in lives and weapons, it should not be assumed that the determined Jap drive and the stubborn Allied defense represent bids solely for the bases themselves. Action in the Solomons is and has been fought for greater stakes than mere outposts. Both sides gamble for sea and air power.  
 The American offensive opened as a drive against Japan's surface and air strength, and it has been moderately successful. But now that the Japs have come back in force, a fateful decision is being fought. Should U. S. and Australian forces suffer heavy losses in ships and planes, even though they hold the Solomons, their position will be precarious, and Australia itself will again be endangered.  
 Japanese losses have been severe to date, but so have our own. Losing six carriers, two destroyers and four transports was a heavy price for us to pay at the start. What we have lost since August is anybody's guess. Thus, if the Japs are successful in retaking the Solomons, we will have suffered greatly and our only gains will finally be the damage we have inflicted upon Jap ships and planes.  
 In the Southwest Pacific area, if they wished, the Jap strategists could pile up such superiority on the sea and in the air that our defeat in the Solomons would be almost inevitable. The Allies' supply lines and ship shortages there just as they do not in any active theater of operations.  
 The situation seems to be this: Outnumbered, we gamble that our ability to give and take punishment is greater than that of the Japanese. Dedicated to the task of wiping out a considerable number of the enemy's strength in the area, we are attempting to hold an advanced position which leaves us vulnerable. We may be forced to retreat; if so we may excite a furious cost on Japan. We may hold out but at the cost of more sea and air power than we can afford.  
 Within two weeks a decision may be expected, a decision which is very likely to determine the length of the war in the Pacific.  
 For work inside of fuelbases, a plane builder, three circus midwinters, also ex-soldierly contortionists and others of similar bent.  
 Calling off the Louis-Conn fight leaves us with absolutely nothing but the European fronts, North Africa, the Solomons, the Aleutians and others too numerous to mention.

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**Battle Lines**  
 GOP's Gains in Congress Forecast Post-War Tilt

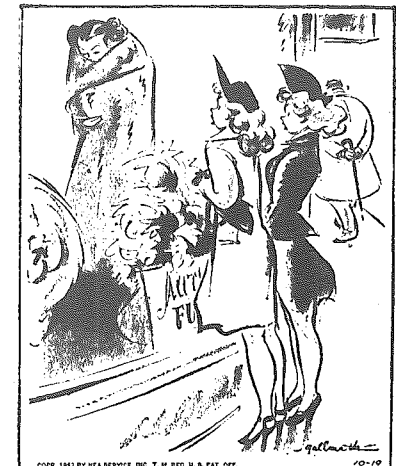
Elections, now just two weeks away, will change the face of the Congress of the United States. Riding on a wave of satisfaction with the prosecution of the war effort by incumbents, the Republicans are certain to make considerable gains. The GOP has little or no chance to get a majority, but its disciples will be seated in such numbers as to make voting on future issues no longer a foregone conclusion.  
 Congress probably will be salaried like all other persons, and sectional alignment will determine many an issue in the two years ahead. Both House and Senate are pledged to follow the leadership of the Administration during war's emergency, but recent events have left both boiling to get out from under the lash and demonstrate their independent spirit.  
 Should peace come before late 1944, voters may look for a merry little revolution in Washington. The boys on Capitol Hill, reared in a political tradition that sometimes goes so far as to break away like schoolboys. Those with any post-war legislation in mind had better get it lined up early.  
 At the sound of the armistice, hostilities will be resumed in the chambers.

**Wealth And The Poor**  
 Them Durned Capitalists

By Dent Smith  
 In Epitome  
**BEARD JOE** (The Average Man) in his back-house, consult him in Kansas, Louisiana, Oregon, or anywhere else, and his notions concerning wealth and the wealthy, capitalist and capitalists, will be found to follow an unvarying pattern. Riches are obtained by exploitation of the weak. A capitalist is one who makes money by exploiting the poor. Capitalist evil is evil; if it provides no work it is guilty of making slaves; if it provides work it is guilty of making slaves.  
 The rich live in idleness and luxury; they have the best of everything, and so are able to take from life more than a fair share of enjoyment and happiness. But they have no respect for the life of other men. All the sages and philosophers worthy of the name have believed precisely the opposite. They have maintained, industry and simplicity lead to contentment, it surely follows that idleness and luxury lead to discontentment.  
 But Joe with his hollow envy is not alone in overlooking the truth in such unassailable if platitudinous reasoning. In his town the mayor and the dogcatcher and the grocer share all or most of his views. Even the president of the Woman's Club, like as not, has no immunity to them; if perchance the lady is enjoying wealth, she can still paradoxically covet it.  
 Good resenters have found in the person of Barbara Hutton an ideal whetstone for sharpening their disaffection. She is a good and a good resenter. He used to harangue the customers in this wise:  
 "Can you feature that dame thrown parties at five thousand bucks a throw for a lot of duds in spots while I have to take and sling hush for guys that can't hardly shake out a dime? Look at me, up to my ears in grease, all on account of her and the rest of her lack-luster! She scoffs up raises gone for lunch, but what's for honest workin' guys like you and me? Chilli beans, by God, a bowl of chili beans! Yeah!"  
 "What's the woman a-comin' to? Damn woman marries her prince and a doper or somebody, rides around like Cleopatra in private cars, eats hairy and reglar, owns a hundred mink coats and forty

Why, look-n-here, that baby wastes more dough in the week than I can earn in a lifetime! What chance has us poor folks got with the millionaires but to get their feet on our necks and do nothing with it but spend it on themselves?"  
 If all millionaires were squanderers, you reply to Joe, those of us in more moderate circumstances would get our children into some portion of their substance. But Joe only scratches his thick skull and doggedly mutters that it ain't right to let your own kids get rich. His grudge is perennial, and his thousand woes are dear to his heart. His christies, too, every one of his children with an unbankable and singular devotion, and is hell-bent on victimizing himself.  
 The real basis of Joe's grudge against the Woolworth heiress is that she ain't making money without the wily huckster. In short time she may have almost none; related this means that he wants for himself that which he detests in another. In his hands, he innocently believes, money would be wisely and beneficently used; in the hands of the rich, he knows it to be an insidious and wicked thing.  
 But Joe, as usual, is mistaken. Concentrated capital, by reason of the necessity to earn interest or rent, is continually forced into productive enterprise. Twenty million dollars in the hands of one individual will be the means for financing the employment of thousands of men, and it will pay taxes on the income it earns at an extremely high rate.  
 But the same sum equally divided among one thousand poor men will not go to finance industry and provide work for those who need it. The seventy million dollars divided would hardly be recognized as capital, though capital it certainly remains. Each of the one thousand men now has got an insignificant capital, and it earns any income at all for its possessor the government will collect a microscopic pittance in taxes calculated at the lowest rate.  
 Some portion of it will disappear from circulation altogether; piece jacks and hucksters will have outwitted the wily huckster. In short time the seventy million once productive of the greatest good will have largely gone for immediate needs and unneeded gadgets. Gradually the capital flows back into acquisitive hands and again finds its way into industry and the jawning coffers of government.

**Side Glances**



"I've been saving up for a coat like that for years and now I've got just enough to buy it—but with the war and everything I wonder if the neighbors would talk!"  
**Quote, Unquote**  
 THE difference between victory and defeat may lie in laborer's willingness to do a good day's work—on a wartime basis, not a peacetime standard.  
 —Undersecretary of War Robert T. Patterson.  
 We are ready to deliver some knockout punches if I can be believed. I have seen with my own eyes.  
 —Wendell Willkie.  
 Appropriate legislation is going to have to be passed in the nature of a national selection service so that men can be directed into spots where they are needed.  
 —WFB Chairman Donald M. Nelson.  
 The laws we have passed for the protection of our youth are approaching a breakdown as industry grows more desperate for a labor supply.  
 —Dr. David J. Wines, Cleveland School Board official.  
**Visitin' Round**  
 When's Elections?  
 (20 Years Ago Item,  
 Dan Rogers)  
 J. B. Whitley of Winston-Salem, was in town Wednesday shaking hands with old friends.  
 But Did He Eat?  
 (Bugsban Item,  
 North Wilkesboro Newsweek)  
 Dan Key attended the big supper held at North Wilkesboro Saturday night.  
 As your muscles grow younger your mental and moral life should grow firmer. That you'll "Whate'er they hand thins to do, it with thy might."  
 —Ecl. 9:10.

**Iron Hand**  
 Georgia Shows Way in Striking Fatal Blow at Social Disease

Georgia's second major accomplishment of the year, closely following the demise of Gene Talmadge, seems to hold a message and a challenge for every other state in the Union, and particularly for the Southern provinces heavily debilitated by army encampments. For Georgia, in a daring and progressive move, has declared martial law upon social disease.  
 A broad state-wide quarantine, enforced strictly by local, county and state health officers, all practicing physicians and police bodies, has been put into effect against persons exposed to or infected with venereal disease. The new proclamation leaves no loopholes. Those afflicted with any of the diseases must

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