

THE CHARLOTTE NEWS

And Evening Chronicle

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FRIDAY, OCTOBER 2, 1942

Side Glances



Who wouldn't it be sensible if we just skipped geography, and history until the war is over? Then we wouldn't have to learn and unlearn so much.

Who's Shivering?

The Oil Slick

WAR Producer Donald Nelson thought a 25-per cent fuel oil cut for a winter would be enough. So did Oil Co-ordinator Ickes, who certainly should know.

But Mr. Leon Henderson's OPA decided to deepen the cut to 33-1/3 per cent, thereby setting a lot of oil authorities, and creating some suspicion that he may be gambling with public health.

This is one of those things that no one in official position wants to talk about. Everyone wants to believe that whatever extent is necessary, but it must be related, in truth to the facts, that the oil people here again suspect Mr. Henderson is suffering from a chronic rattling phobia.

If Ickes and Nelson thought 25 per cent was enough, there is no reason to suspect Mr. Henderson has superior judgment or additional facts. Indeed, his announcement specified none. It offered no justification, except the unbacked one that OPA did not believe 25 per cent would be enough.

No health authority in the Government is going to come out and say that waves of influenza and pneumonia may be promoted by such a drastic cut because no one wants to anticipate uncertain results.

But the best possible medical authority says the ideal indoor temperature is 68 to 70 degrees. Henderson has fixed 65 degrees and in Washington at 60 degrees. It is a matter of maintaining maximum efficiency in factories, where people are moving about.

The only official evidence on the subject is some testimony by Mayor LaGuardia, before the House Banking committee last year, that waves of influenza and pneumonia may be promoted by such a drastic cut because no one wants to anticipate uncertain results.

European nations, particularly Britain and France, get along at lower temperatures, but they do so by using better insulation and moving about more indoors. Active children will have to adopt the practice of getting up and moving around frequently.

If the simple rules are adopted gladly by the people, and they have physiologically a spirit of co-operation and a sense of confidence in the results, the effects will certainly be less serious than otherwise.

The first two steps taken by the Government toward national gas rationing were diametrically opposed to the recommendations of the Baruch report, which inspired the confidence of the country.

In the United States, petitions, open letters, newspaper advertisements and meetings, indicate anxiety over continuation of the present deadlock.

This comes primarily from friends of Britain. It is no new movement of former isolationists or non-talkers. Certainly they are all strongly anti-Axis. A meeting this week in Washington was called under the sponsorship of such persons as Governor Harold Stearns of Minnesota, Mrs. Hugo L. Black, Mrs. Pearl Buck, Bishop early friends of aid to England and members of opposing political parties, were speakers at the Washington meeting.

So far as can be judged, a common purpose dominates all of these people. It is to hope that the deadlock between the British Government and the Indian people can be resolved promptly in order to strengthen the defense of India, in which American troops are participating, not only for defense of India but to use India as an offensive base against Japan. All of them feel that if the Indian people remain silent and frustrated in steps toward more self-government, the disasters of Burma and Malaya, partly caused by the indifference and even hostility of the population toward the Allies, may be repeated in India.

Mr. GEORGE B. SMITH, 805 Magnolia Ave., Charlotte.

Bible Thought 'Visitin' Round

This is the secret of many a magnificent strong life. The Bible says: 'I have set the Lord alights before me. Because he is at my right hand, I shall not be moved.' Psalm 16:8.

Double Warning

Bucke Down, Citizens

By Dorothy Thompson

WASHINGTON WITHIN the two high authorities of the American forces, Ralph A. Bard, Assistant Secretary of the Navy, and Lieut.-Gen. Breton B. Somervell, head of the Department of Supply, have said much more than the American people. They have said in so many words that we are losing the war to date, because of smug complacency and deceptive optimism.

Some editors have rushed to the defense of the word "we." Everything, by the inference of such editors, is the fault of the Administration. For in this war, the inherent faults of our civilization are being ruthlessly exposed. I say our "civilization." And that is "us."

Our Administration cannot be anything except a reflection of our whole civilization. For every special task that has to be done, the Administration is taking in leading members of our society, and there is no evidence that the moment they enter the Government they become different human beings than they were before.

Our civilization has been a "business" civilization. Its basis has been ruthless competition for power, prestige, and success. If then we draw on this civilization as we must, for our officials, why should we expect that by some miracle, ruthless competition for power, prestige, and success suddenly evaporates from their mentalities? They carry into Government all the characteristics of private life.

The means of attaining power, prestige, and success in private life has been to build up the personal sphere, by smartness, shrewdness, salesmanship, and the creation of pressure blocs and alliances for the same purposes. Our civilization has been in a constant state of war, of one corporation against another, one product against another, one labor group against another and all corporations and workers against each other.

Translated into government, this means the fight of one branch of the armed services against the other, the fight of one agency against the other, inside every agency the fight of one department against the other, each resorting to pressures and alliances to try to widen its powers, and each trying to sell itself by salesmanship methods.

Now if Mr. Bard and General Somervell complain about complacency and optimism, they are only seeing the results of a generation of super-salesmanship.

We have been "sold" a lot of false ideas. We have for instance, been sold a ridiculous concept of economics. Our "business" economy has been based on the rapid turnover of goods. It has been based on the promotion of the heaviest bulk of sales, and the rapid circulation of money. For a generation we have been encouraged to see that we do not need and throw away what is still good. Wastefulness has been presented as though it were a moral virtue.

The whole system of "promotion" has created the most extravagant demands in every field of life, and the fulfillment of those extravagant demands has been called "The American Standard of Living." We, therefore, have a population which thinks that without silk stockings and permanent waves will vanish from the universe; that without an electric refrigerator, our children will get pneumonia poisoning; that unless we drink a glass of orange juice every morning, eat meat, two green vegetables, one starchy vegetable, and a dessert at least once a day and probably twice, with some vitamin pill snacks in between, we will suffer from malnutrition and be unable to fulfill normal human functions.

Now, we cannot change mental habits overnight. Neither Mr. Bard, nor General Somervell, nor I, who the Lord knows, have fought a long fight on this world, and a desert at least once a day and probably twice, with some vitamin pill snacks in between, we will suffer from malnutrition and be unable to fulfill normal human functions.

We have been systematically taught to believe that luxuries are necessities, and for the procuring of these luxuries, which are called "the standard of living," we have sacrificed the standards of life. And we have made our civilization anarchic, false and tawdry, cherishing a false standard of achievement, publicity instead of solid fame; spending power instead of national strength and wealth; leisure instead of creative work; sports instead of exercise; color in life instead of the home; glamour instead of love; tolerance without conviction, credulity without faith; pacifism without peace.

Now the war brings into the open the truth about our civilization—and the best thing we can do is to confront this truth—and change it.

If we don't confront the truth it will be shoved down our throats.

Speaking of the Weather—

—By Herblock



The Sore Spot

What Of Mother India?

By Raymond Clapper

WASHINGTON EVERY day brings new evidence to concern here at least a portion of American discussion on being sent to London newspapers by their correspondents in Washington. I have been advised by them that when they attempted to send portions of some of my own dispatches to England these were censored.

This point is made that suggestions presented to the British public from having a full picture of the discussion in the United States. The reason given on behalf of the American censorship to the British correspondents is that the differences of policy existed between the Allies. The British correspondents must be told that the differences of policy existed between the Allies.

So far as can be judged, a common purpose dominates all of these people. It is to hope that the deadlock between the British Government and the Indian people can be resolved promptly in order to strengthen the defense of India, in which American troops are participating, not only for defense of India but to use India as an offensive base against Japan.

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Some friends of India make the point that a transition to more self-government can be more easily accomplished during the war than afterward. They base their case on the willingness of Indian leaders to leave military districts and related activities such as control of railways and other communications to the hands of the military. This in itself would give a large measure of stabilization and mean the changeover of civilian functions only, a measure which, they claim, than the total switch that might be demanded after the war. Such is the argument of those who favor reopening of negotiations.

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Pot 'n' Kettle

A Senator Says the President Has Passed a Huge Buck

Senator Reed of Kansas, who publicly claims the lowest place in the estimation of the Roosevelt (lower, says he, than that of Maryland's Senator Tydings), was the first Congressman to strike back at the President and critics who have condemned the legislative body. He worked in his naturally enough, in the anti-inflation bill discussions in the Senate floor.

The President strongly suggested that he would like to protect the consumer because he did not have the power—a large, important, dull, and stupid Congress had tied his hands. Let us see. On the chart which has just gone into the Record, and which I have read, the top item is beef at \$11.30 a hundred pounds. One hundred and ten per cent increase in the price of the comparable price on beef cattle, is \$2.34 a hundred pounds, and there has been no day, up to and including the 25th, when the President of the United States or the Price Administrator could not have made an order reducing the price of beef cattle from \$11.30 a hundred pounds to \$9.24 a hundred pounds, under authority of the Price Control Act.

I do not wish to be misunderstood; I am not discussing whether \$11.30 or \$9.24 is too much or too little, or just right. I am talking about the authority of the President, which he led the country to believe he did not have. I repeat for the correction of those who question the correctness of it. There has not been a day, up to and including the 25th, when the President of the United States or the Price Administrator could not have issued an order fixing on beef cattle the ceiling of \$9.24, which is the limit within the present law.

In short, if we may accept this little bynote, half-hidden in the Congressional Record, as an expression of the Congressional frame of mind, the President is flatly accused of passing the buck. There's more than one merry-go-round in Washington, friends.

Tired Manpower

The State Is Split on Issue Of Work, Fight Or Be Jugged

The delightful, gentle art of loafing, you might say, is not billed as one of the Four Freedoms. At least the Churchill-Roosevelt document failed to define that ancient profession as an aim, present or future. And, however those of us slow-moving souls might like to lobby in its behalf, the doing nothing way of life is, as they say in Cleveland County, in low cotton. But there is, alas, no well-defined peace. A man who would work in peace.

To Robeson County, we note, the manpower shortage has moved officials to action. There, pinched by the knowledge that a working man is now more important than ever, the U. S. Employment Service is making plans to slip them in jail. It's work, fight or be arrested as a vagrant. A labor shortage in that section brought all this about.

We were interested to note, some weeks ago, a clue to Charlotte's situation and politics. The Rescue Mission, here reported no lag in the traffic of broke and almost-broke gentlemen through its portals. They don't stay so long these days, but they keep coming. Here, rather than order them bluntly to labor or languish in jail, we provide them with bed and board. A sort of humane subsidy.

In Shelby, school children went to work in the cotton fields. Down in Robeson the good old days are done. Here, it's business as usual. If you believe in the presence of an acute manpower shortage, you'll have to agree that North Carolina is on a kind of half-a-loaf policy.

Big Business

The Rookie Cop Knew What He Was Talking About

Under the Prohibition Liquor System in Mecklenburg, the volume of business done has always been a guess—had to be because of the sub rosa nature of the trade. It was the guess of a rookie cop, being a newcomer to the force, was assigned the bootlegging beat a couple of years ago, that the liquor dealers here took in \$10,000 a day, or \$3,450,000 a year.

That was incredible. But only a few weeks ago, when the chairman of the State ABC Board, who was in position to know something about the quantity of liquor brought from distillers for the

High-Low

Navy Officer Denies Kelly's Bomber Sank the Big Haruna

The Navy has us confused again, and though conflicting military publicity in the first World War might have served as a warning, the past is of no help. The Navy's official pronouncement has hailed the late Captain Colin Kelly as a hero, in large part because the Army had announced his feat of sinking the Jap battleship Haruna in action off the Philippines. Now, on the word of the Navy's Lieutenant Commander John Trach, it seems that Captain Kelly's feat (but not his valor) has been discredited.

Piloting a Flying Fortress, Captain Kelly was reported to have made his last flight glorious by blasting the battleship from on high. At home, he was accepted as a hero, and his feat was hailed in Washington. It was because it proved vulnerability of capital ships to horizontal bombing.

No new evidence can deny Kelly died as a hero. He died on his return from the attack, after seeing all of his crew off to safety. He held only took his shot at a big enemy. He held up his life for his men. That much is not to be confused with the counter-claims.

Navy's Trach, however, returned from action in the Pacific (where he won a Navy Cross, a Gold Star and a DSM) and upon Washington that horizontal bombing meant nothing over the sea, that "not a single major ship has been sunk" by that method in this war. When asked of Captain Kelly's feat, he simply repeated his statement. He believes only in fighter planes and dive bombers.

We believe that such claims and counter-claims by Army and Navy are dangerous to morale, and wonder why OWI's Elmer Davis can't find time to co-ordinate reports and prevent such head-on collisions. Next thing you know, we'll be telling you that the classic story, "Sighted sub. Sank same," is not true.

A Pioneer

C. E. Hutchison Left a Section In Debt for His Leadership

To men like C. E. Hutchison the Piedmont Carolinas owe their very existence as a textile-industrial economy. His passing here yesterday, at 80, brought to an end 50 years of diversified activity which leaves the section in his debt. Hutchison of Mount Holly has been a pioneer.

In 1892, when this area was an isolated province lacking even in the crude beginnings of industrialism, he built his first textile mill. That was only a starter. He added four more companies, later combined in the Carolina Textile American Yarn & Processing Co. Mr. Hutchison was not just a wealthy manufacturer. He was state and national leader of cotton manufacturers, contributed greatly to development in his field.

Nor was his interest confined to textiles. It was he who conceived and pushed through, with Duke University, the Piedmont & Northern Railway. His zeal went beyond himself and his mills. The plans which came out of his mind, with him in the Carolina past too soon forgotten, our plateau would have been only a plateau today.

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