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And Evening Chronicle

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MONDAY, OCTOBER 26, 1942

Thimble-Thimble Who's Got Authority Over The City's Bus Service?

Somewhere between City Hall and the State Office Building in Raleigh a busload of jurisdiction has gone astray. Some months ago the State Utilities Commission expressed the opinion that authority over bus service in Charlotte rested in the City of Charlotte. That was that, but it appears that the City, while its attorneys have issued no statement, thinks that the authority rests with the Utilities Commission, in which view, it develops, attorneys for the Duke Power Co. concur.

Several weeks ago, however, when the power company went through an extensive re-organizing of its service, it submitted the whole new schedule to the City Council for study. The implication was that the power company conceded the City's authority and sought its consent, and that was given. But last week the City Council proposed the establishment of an additional bus route. Duke Power's attorney submitted that the City had no jurisdiction, and read the law to back up his point that the State Utilities Commission was the real authority.

Vote For This Solicitorial Amendment Deserves Full Support

Attention over the State has centered upon the so-called educational amendment to the constitution, and a hot controversy has developed. But there is another amendment to be voted upon. No controversy has been set off by it, for the amendment is one of those rare proposals which has only a good side, no bad side at all. The only reason for voting against it would be outright perverseness or self-interest.

The amendment would simply disinvest judicial and solicitorial districts. As provided for at present in the State's constitution, the Legislature may establish judicial districts, increasing or decreasing the number from time to time, but for each judicial district a solicitorial district must be provided. The amendment would give the Legislature the authority to establish solicitorial districts which need not be the same as judicial districts, and the first, immediate possibility under the amended procedure would be for Mecklenburg County to be constituted as a solicitorial district unto itself.

That would greatly expedite the processes of criminal trials both in Mecklenburg, where justice has been notoriously a laggard, and in other counties which would be regrouped according to the volume of their criminal cases. But the amendment is of primary importance to Mecklenburg, and ought to receive a thumping vote from this county to take care of whatever dissent there may be in other quarters.

The Recruit With A New Gun, Senator Nye Shoots Up Everyone In Sight

American friends of Britain and the Republic themselves looked out upon a strange sight the other day. At the entrance, sitting a milk white charger that may or may not have been a Trojan Horse, sat Senator Gerald Nye, (Republican, N. D.) the old-time Anglophobe shepherd. He wanted in, he said. He, the anti-British, being enough, and still reserved his right to private sentiments on the Empire. But this was war, John Bull was an ally, and he wanted things to be right.

he himself had never breathed a word against Merrie England. On one, he had a proper beard. But on Willie his slight wimp, Nye was quick on the draw, but erratic still. The man who first believed Pearl Harbor to be a Roosevelt-British trick and thought the U. S. deserved a Jap attack had, as was his right and duty, settled down to war and its realities. In just a few minutes, it galled him to see snipers-at-Britain in any form. But he had no right to attack Wendell Willie.

Life's letter to the British (an infuflating, down-the-nose piece of pre-arranging) was surely out of place and out of tune. Luce and his staff had a call-down coming. They were dictating the terms of American aid and deliberately threatened its withdrawal unless concessions were made to "our principles." There, Nye's blast was timely. Against Willie, however, a man whose brand of internationalism has run through the country like a strong current since he first came to public notice, his weapon was puny. Perhaps Willie had been overly verbose and indiscern in his travel-talk around the world. But as a private citizen he was as surely entitled to his own sentiments as was Nye to his.

We don't know what to make of the converted noblest isolationist of them all, and don't know for sure what his new stand is. Best thing to do, we reckon, is to take him at his word and hail one more patriot.

Horse Trade Preposterous Maas Proposal Should Be Cut In Half

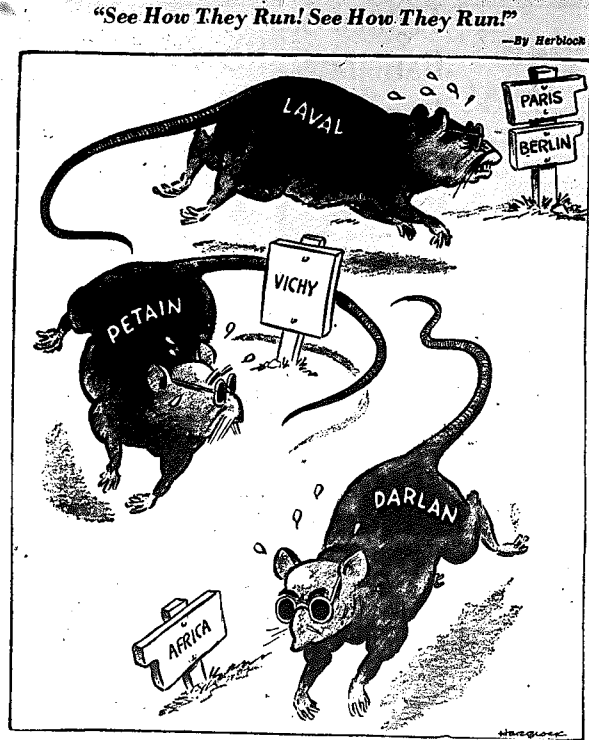
The proposal of Rep. Maas to abolish the Army, Navy and Marine Corps and build them all into one huge American fighting unit was by far the most sweeping change yet dreamed up in the battle for a unified command. More than a change, that. It was a statement of revolution, and quite likely represented far more than the House Naval Affairs spokesman wanted or hoped for. True to a Congressional horse-trading tradition, he probably asked for twice what he meant to get.

Nearest we can figure, Maas (who is also a flying Marine Colonel) is driving at a super American command, to rule the President of military duties for which he has no time, and to guarantee perfect co-ordination of services. For the combination of all forces would result in dread confusion. In the Army command, specialists with a life-time of training head up complex forces of infantry, mechanized divisions, air units, artillery. In every spreading branch of the service tactics, strategy and general problems are vastly different. The Navy, with its submarines, surface and aerial units, faces the same kinds of problems—but of such a nature as to place them in a world separate from that of the Army.

Lumping together the forces would be unfeasible, even impossible, because there are no men available with background and training sufficient to qualify them as combined commanders. There are few men alive able to direct with equal facility sea forces, ground forces and air forces. Indeed, both Army and Navy have been troubled by squabbles among themselves, as between the services, whenever whatever dissent there may be in other quarters.

The super command for which Maas was apparently aiming would become, if ever brought into being, the salvation of U. S. arms. Many a loosely-defined council of war sits on too many problems. The combined operations of the United Nations leave no time for the Supreme Council to make decisions on detailed American operations. Washington needs its own all-powerful command, to weld together the services under the present system.

Through the kindness of the new management, the tax on opium smoking is discontinued in Burma. We thought some communicate writer would like to know.



If Winter Comes The Nazis Fly South

By Paul Mallon

WASHINGTON SNOW is beginning to fly in Russia and the Nazi blackbirds are turning south to Africa. Familiar sign-warnings of coming heavy action there are evident through the news. Reinforcements to Rommel, ferried by air, within the last single week, amounted to about 5,000 men.

The brave British stronghold at Malta, under the Italian bomb, survived bombings the last ten days in a row. The French are looking apprehensively across the Algerian border in the direction of Italian activities in Tunisia, or say they are, and certainly the fact of Italian activities there may be believed. Darlan is moving to Dakar.

And above all, the Axis broadcasts have suddenly displayed new interest in all affairs Africanus. The precise port of these signs is not as easy to see. On the surface they suggest Hitler will seek, through a new drive on the Suez, the hopes for victory he lost at Stalingrad, and on the northern edge of the Caucasus.

But perhaps he is only trying to strengthen himself defensively, against preparations made by the British and Americans in the same field, preparations which possibly are not as obvious as those of the Germans.

So put it all down only as a certain forerunner of the greatest Winter struggle yet for control of the always Dark Continent.

Brutality Is All

If men and material were all there is to warfare, the Nazis would have captured Stalingrad six weeks ago. Military men everywhere have felt the fall drama in the world, and a majority of them are by no means yet convinced it will hold through the Winter.

The Monster He Left A World In Debt

By Deems Taylor In 'Oj Men and Music'

HE WAS an underpaid little man, with a head too big for his body—a sickly little man. His nerves were bad. He had skin trouble. It was agony for him to go on a hazardous night like that. And he had delusions of grandeur.

He was a monster of conceit. Never for one minute did he look at the world or at people, except in relation to himself. He was not only the most important person in the world, to himself; in his own eyes he was the only person who existed. He believed himself to be a hazard to the world, and he was, one of the greatest thinkers, and one of the greatest composers. To hear him talk, he was Shakespeare, and Beethoven, and all the rest of them. And you would have had no difficulty in hearing him talk. He was one of the most exhausting conversationalists that ever lived.

He had a mania for being in the right. The slightest hint of disagreement, from anyone, on the most trivial point, was enough to set him humming—a crowd of his friends would be around him in which he provided himself right in so many ways, and with such exhausive volubility, that in the end his hearers, whatever they were, would agree with him, for the sake of peace.

The Fortresses

WASHINGTON WE have suffered so many military blows beginning with Pearl Harbor that those who take their medicine straight without sugar coating, haven't had much that was pleasant to swallow.

Although some had seen the effectiveness of these bombers and called them flying targets, they are storing our confidence while possibly introducing a new element into the air war that may have a profound effect on tactics, as well as on strategy. The introduction of the tank did, fortunately, have a similar effect on the production of Fortresses and the similar Consolidated Liberators so that we can press now the performance of these big four-motored bombers in their ability to knock down enemy fighters, in a way we prepared to count so heavily on the bomber to destroy enemy fighters.

The little raid showed that bombers can not only take care of themselves but can hand out deadly punishment. The unofficial reports passed almost unbelieved. Both in Europe and in the Pacific the Fort has shown itself to be an animal with more lives than a cat, and able to bring down fighters while remaining in the air against the enemy fire. The Fort has taken the Jap Zero and the German Focke-Wulf 190 alike for a ride.

We devised our heavy bomber originally to defend our shores, and designed it to fly high, fast and far, to meet the enemy in daylight far over our own shores and to turn him back, as OWI explains in its remarkable report on an American aircraft. We did not expect the enemy to reach us, or to fight him over his own territory. We devised the bombight of accuracy which is still regarded by almost all observers as the most accurate so accurate that the saying is almost literally true that you can see it you can hit it.

The British developed the slower, lower, bomber capability in daylight far over our own shores and was regarded as a big lumberer of explosives to be dumped. It had either to slip in at night or surround itself with protecting fighters if it went out in daylight. The bomber, whether British or American, was regarded as a destroyer of other aircraft to any such degree as the Fort and Liberator have become.

Our big bombers are so heavily armed that they can outrange approaching enemy fighters. In formation they are able to cover the approach of the enemy from any angle. Therefore the big bomber, with its devastating load, is now showing that it can range in daylight far out beyond the limits of short-range escorts hitherto regarded as necessary to protect bombers from enemy fighters.

The fighter plane has been regarded as the weapon to use against a major weapon in destroying the enemy air force in the air. One caution should be noted. Although the Allied air campaign over Germany is showing possibilities beyond what many Germans can be defeated by air alone.

Precision daylight bombing will be able to damage production and transportation. Mass bombings are evidently having a depressing effect on the German population. There is reason to believe that this may become an important factor during the Winter. Yes, there is little likelihood that air attack, no matter how extensive, can reduce Germany without ground attack also. But it begins to look as if we can count on the air force for a great deal more than could be expected by those who argued that, since the Germans against Great Britain by bombing, we could count on it for little against Germany.

Side Glances



"I got him a date with Doris because he helped me with Latin—now I can't date her any more because he's helping her every night!"

Who Bids? Wife For Sale

GENTLEMEN, I have to offer to your notice my wife, Mary Anne G. Thomson, otherwise Williams, whom I mean to sell to the highest and fairest bidder. Gentlemen, it is her wish as well as mine to part forever. She has been to me only a burden, and I seek her peace, comfort, and the good of my home; but she became my torment, a domestic curse, a night invasion, and a daily devil. Gentlemen, I speak truth from my heart when I say—may God deliver us from troublesome wives and frolicsome women!

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Vistin' Round

Some folks go to any Extreme For Variety's Sake (Rt. 4, Ft. Blaine, Va.) One of those Tuesday to Monday Week-ends, We Reckon (1730 W. 10th St., London, Ont., Canada) Clinton Koonka has just returned from New York, where he spent a few days during the week-end.

Bible Thought

If people followed up and imitated us what would they be? He said unto them, Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men.—Matt. 4:19