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WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 25, 1942



Heavy Burden
After Victory
By Dorothy Thompson

WASHINGTON

It is with not the slightest desire to embarrass the State Department or the President, or detract one iota from the brilliant exploits of the American military in North Africa, that I am publishing this column to discuss the basic political principles involved in our occupation of that territory.

For the issue is absolutely fundamental. What political action do we take when we reconquer territory? On what principles do we act? Do we leave the decision to the military, as a matter of military expediency? Does the President really improve a political medium by deciding? Does the Senate of the State Department decide the matter, or does the people?

All these things happened in North Africa. And what happened in North Africa can become a model for procedure in whatever territory we reconquer the outcome of this war. What happens in North Africa is watched, with the most intense interest, by all the political leaders of Europe, and the underground movements. It is also watched by our allies.

Obviously, we need not only an American policy, but a United Nations policy.

Let us leave, for the moment, personalities out of account. Algeria is not a part of the French Empire. It is a department of France, as much a part of France as the State of Maine is a part of the United States. It was, under the Vichy Government, governed by the French Constitution. It had Deputies and Senators, elected by the people of that department.

We have now liberated it. That is to say, we have liberated an integral part of France itself. And therefore when we think of it, we will be considering a pattern for what we do for all France. And now the question is: Are we going to rule it? Is the President, for instance, from long distance, going to abolish Vichy laws that he does not like? Or, are we going to restore the Constitution of France?

Everything is made clearer by taking a homely analogy. Suppose that the whole of the United States was occupied by Nazis and Japanese. Suppose that these had found local Quilings and Lavalis, who had abolished the Constitution and taken over the administration, and were ruling—as Laval now is in all of France but Algeria—by decree, resting on Nazi-Jap bayonets. Now suppose that an Anglo-American expeditionary force had landed in Maine, taken over the Government, and established themselves. What would they do next, really? What call would they send out to the people of America? Would they arbitrarily pick an administrator, or would they then and there re-establish the American Constitution? Would they then and there announce to the people of the nation that legitimate American government of the people, had been re-established on one bit of America?

Laval is a Fascist leader resting on German bayonets, and Darlan is a dubious leader resting on American bayonets. No principles except expediency are involved in either case.

If Darlan's authority, secondly, is only established by the backing of the United States, it is, in fact, no French government, and second has fully lost its authority by the declaration of Roosevelt, forecasting Darlan's doom. The people of North Africa must now assume that Darlan will not remain in power and threaten his authority and usefulness vanish.

If it was possible to get General Giraud out of metropolitan France one wonders why it was not possible to spirit a man like Henriot out, to be there to declare the dawn of liberation.

The Constitution of France cannot be restored piecemeal; and by the President of the United States, by demanding that the French copies of Nuremberg Laws be abolished, and the Free French prisoners liberated. If it is going to be restored at all—with all the legitimate opportunities for its modification—then it must be restored in principle.

No policy can be made by rule of thumb, by improvisations however brilliant. Tomorrow there will be a problem of what to do with Libya. And incidentally, what is the Congress of the United States doing? The British Parliament, recognizing that a basic principle is involved, is debating it. But the American Congress can't find anything better to do than filibuster on the poll tax.

The greatest political tasks of our generation lie ahead of us. Let us think about them.

Decision
U. S. Air Forces To Meet First Big Test in Tunisia

In bright Tunisian skies the worth of the U. S. Army Air Forces will be tested on a grand scale for the first time. Neither British nor American criticism, nor limited action over Europe, or the Pacific or in Egypt could answer for our warplane and the young men who fly them. But in the final phase of the battle for Africa they were flung into the crucible of a great struggle. And if they are found wanting the fall of Bizerte and Tunis, once considered an immediate probability, may be months away.

The narrow crescent of Axis lines on the South shores of the Mediterranean is broken, an hour's flight away, by major bases in Sicily and Sardinia. All the power that Hitler's Luftwaffe and Mussolini's Regia Aeronautica can muster has been poured into the area. When London forecasted that the Axis would be in the line in prospect, it changed the face of the war in that theater.

A full-scale clash between Axis and Allied air power means not only high costs to both sides, but also a postponement of coming blows across the narrow straits of Italy. It means that Bizerte, in its turn, may be able to withstand a long siege. At both Tunis and Bizerte, stable inland bases are at stake, and they complicate the task of attack and defense. Domination of the air is a prerequisite of Allied victory there.

Unable, apparently, to match the numerical strength of the Axis, the Allied forces, the German High Command has considered a stand through air power, and that places the burden of proof upon Americans. For the first time (except for isolated instances in the Aleutians) the Allies have been reports of the heavily armed Lightning interceptors in action. The American fighters, fighting planes, and the American fighters, fighting planes, are making their appearance in large numbers.

Axis planes bomb our new bases at Algiers and Bone, and suffer under fierce retaliation. Over the mountainous terrain in the rear, Allied mechanized columns advance, thus far more than a match for Nazi tanks. Upstairs the battle will be won and American pilots yet untested in battle will answer the critics of the planes they fly. A keynote was struck by Lieutenant Colonel W. M. Krom of the Army Air Forces. "Our boys have never refused a blockade and they have never been beaten in an aerial battle." The boys are ready.

Surplus
Doris Duke's Fortune Looks Smaller Beside Endowment

Because she was 30, and Old Buck had willed it to, the richest girl in the world will get \$10,000,000 more last Sunday to swell her great wealth. There were, no doubt, thousands of people in the country who frowned at the thoughts raised by that story. It seemed outrageous in these times for one person to have that many more money to add to all the money she had—and Doris Duke probably would have been the first to admit it.

But almost at the same time, as though a next chapter in the unfolding saga of one of the world's great fortunes, the Duke Endowment year book came into the office. That wealth worth side of the story of the maiden wealth accumulated by a North Carolina farm boy in the early years of the century.

The little year book stated, for example, that almost \$20,000,000 of the Duke monies have been spent in the Carolinas between 1924 and 1942, for hospitals and orphanages (216 of them), rural churches, superannuated Methodist preachers, needy families, four colleges and universities. The endowment's investment in Carolina state and municipal holdings and in home-grown industries, though not philanthropies, are serving the public good.

In the New Deal era of social consciousness the bequest of many millions within a family may seem exorbitant and unshareable. But by any socio-economic concept under which we may live, the considerable portion of Buck Duke's fortune that is the Duke Endowment will continue to pay an imposing return to the Carolinas of the Carolinas. And by removing the prejudice against new new millions, but it will carry them down them down, precisely as Old Buck figured.

A Councilman Speaks
Rights Of City Government

Editors, THE NEWS:

Reference is made to your editorial in a recent issue of THE NEWS relative to the City Council's rejection of the State Board of Health's Merit System. I quote an excerpt from a recent editorial which appeared in the Southern Textile Bulletin of Sept. 1, by none other than Governor Brough:

"Many Governmental and economic theorists would be delighted to see the Federal Government have complete control of education, health, agricultural and other activities that affect the lives of all our citizens."

I note that you express yourself as in favor of accepting the \$20,000,000, thereby embracing the Merit System which is a child of the Social Security Act. The figure that I mention herein, while they are not absolutely accurate, are approximately correct. However, if you wish to quote them, you will please check to get the identical amount. The City of Charlotte appropriated for this fiscal year \$100,000 for the maintenance of its Health Department. It is my understanding that approximately \$3,500 would come through the Federal Government, through the State Board of Health, about \$10,000 from the Reynolds fund through the State Board of Health, if we adopted the Merit System.

I am of the opinion that if this system is adopted, our rights to local self-government will be impaired as it is evident that with \$3,500 of Federal funds they will, by remote control, direct the Health Department of the City of Charlotte. I wonder if the Reynolds fund was established with the knowledge that it would be used as a club to force political submission.

I have not heard any two people who discussed the Merit System concern relative to its operations. I agree that it is right to have these key positions in our Health Department protected by competent men who have passed examinations promulgated by the State Board of Health, but I can see no reason why these administering the State Merit System should insist upon clerks, stenographers, etc., passing an examination as it seems to me that our City Manager could select competent clerks, stenographers, etc. from the general knowledge that I have gotten of the operations of the State Merit System, they will have those that apply for positions and examination and will in turn furnish the City of Charlotte with a number of names from which they can select an employee to fill the place.

One can readily see what trouble would ensue from a procedure like this directed from Raleigh. In addition thereto, in the event the City Manager wished to discharge a competent man, he would first have to get permission from the Merit System authority in Raleigh, or if he asserted himself and discharged the

employee without consulting the authorities in Raleigh, and they did not concur, he would have to reinstate the employee discharged, which boils down to just one conclusion, and that is, that Charlotte pays the taxes for the operation of the Health Department and Raleigh spends the money.

I understand there was a salary schedule for various positions and when they were advised last Wednesday that many of the employees in our Health Department were already receiving more salary than the Merit System schedule permitted, they stated that they would not curtail any of the salaries now being paid but any of those that were less than the Merit System schedule would have to be increased. Consequently, that our City Manager, by the increase we would have to pay deducted from the \$20,000 which we would get if we submitted to their direction, would only leave a net of approximately \$10,000.

In conclusion there is the question of the principle involved. If this plan is adopted, why not let Raleigh take over the Police and Fire Departments and to accept it by threatening to tax them and use the money elsewhere if they did not come in. The same high-handedness is behind the Merit Plan. The Merit Plan, if it would hold the state it could have no health money unless the state required local governments to install the Merit Plan.

(But the Merit Plan is not inherently vicious. On the contrary, it has the virtue of being administered according to laws enacted by the State Legislature. As Federal assistance, it is true) and supervised by a board of fellow North Carolinians. What's more, the City Council has thrown over the Merit Plan on the fifteenth of any month, hence could not have been hurt irreparably. And twenty grand, is twenty grand.

(Still, we concede that Mr. Baker's position is entirely supportable, and we welcome the opportunity to present his views on the subject—Editors, THE NEWS.)

With best wishes and regards, I am, Sincerely,
J. A. BAKER.

(Note: Councilman Baker's position is entirely supportable, although we do not agree with it. It is perfectly true that the Federal Government, when it makes an appropriation of money to the states, wants to have something to say about how and by whom it shall be administered. When unemployment insurance first came into being, the New Deal forced the states to accept it by threatening to tax them and use the money elsewhere if they did not come in. The same high-handedness is behind the Merit Plan. The Merit Plan, if it would hold the state it could have no health money unless the state required local governments to install the Merit Plan.

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Visitin' Around

Incidental Intelligence
(North Wilkesboro Hustler)

Mr. and Mrs. J. A. Campbell of Hidenite, Rt. 1, and their daughter, Mrs. Vada Hidenite, and her two children, Austin and Louise, were in the city Wednesday shopping. The Campbells carried Alexander County for the first time in about twenty years.

Rev. J. H. Thompson—
The Needle's Stick
(Cid item, Lexington Dispatch)

Several of the farmers in the community have killed some very nice quail the past week. There are several more in the pen but it seems there is a shortage of hogs to kill this year, as some didn't get any pig, to fatten. It seems pigs are not very plentiful this year.

The Good Provider
(North Catawbas item, Lenoir News Topics)

Mr. R. F. Smith has built his wife a nice grain house. She sure is tickled because she can store away her grain for the winter.

What's the Matter With Mattie Ellen and Ruby?
(Richfield item, Concord Tribune)

Miss Mattie Ellen Wagner spent last week-end with Miss Ruby Rowland.

Roy Slopser of Newport News, Va., spent last Sunday with Miss Pamela Culp.

Now That Clears Up Everything, Does It?
(North Wilkesboro Hustler)

Mr. and Mrs. Von Perkins, Wilkesboro, have gone to east part of State where he, and for several weeks or months, has been in defense plants and have closed their home (the Perkins residence) for a month or six months. Mr. and Mrs. Ray Kennedy, (who having heretofore been clerk in the sheriff's office) have also gone to Tennessee.

Side Glances



The Hard Way
We Will Run The World

By Raymond Clapper

WASHINGTON

THE appointment of Gov. Herbert Lehman to direct relief and rehabilitation of liberated territory was one of the most important things from the failure of the League of Nations.

The League was an ambitious experiment, sprung out of the Paris peace conference the day after the war. It was a dream of a world that never had really behind it. The League was a beautiful ideal, like the crackpot dream the American League had in turn furnish to hell and not be dragged down with it. Either would have been acceptable if it had worked.

This time we are making a less pretentious start, but a more realistic one. We are going at it like a bulldozer, beginning with some solid foundation stones on which, it is hoped, a durable and livable structure can be built. The time has come when the longer, harder way, but that usually is the surer way in the end.

We begin in a modest way, by trying to feed and supply the populations where we have taken over in North Africa. They have been bled by the Axis, and left none of them than they were before. We hope to leave them better off.

We will not only feed them, but we will send them seed, fertilizer, and other things needed to increase their production. We will obtain from them cork, olive oil and other products we need and thus assist them gradually to become self-sustaining peoples. We will emphasize not only relief but the things that will make them better producers—and in the end make them better producers from all manufacturing nations. This is not a soup-kitchen project.

For the moment, this will be largely an American job. But before long it is probable that the work of Governor Lehman will become part of a United Nations organization, the first practical, going piece of United Nations machinery to grow out of the war.

This is a field in which there is little difficulty in the United Nations getting together. More than a year ago, before we went into the war, the British and the exiled governments in London created an Inter-Allied Committee on Postwar Reconstruction. Sir Frederick Leith-Ross, chief economic adviser to the British Government, became chairman of it. He has been in Washington for some months working with our Government on relief and rehabilitation plans, and has returned to London to report and prepare the way for setting up the United Nations group.

Governor Lehman probably will expand his North African activities by heading up the actual work of this United Nations group. He would deal not only with interim work, such as aiding people in recovered territory, but would prepare to lay the foundation work of reconstruction that will follow the end of the fighting in Europe.

This is the pattern preferred here now, working from the smaller, immediate job to the larger, going into the bigger tasks that will come with the progress of life war and the end of it.