

THE CHARLOTTE NEWS

And Evening Chronicle

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THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 1942

Birthday Gift

Washington Would Understand What Nelson Was Driving At

It is a ludicrous commentary on the methods of writing and teaching American history that to generations of grown-up school children George Washington is automatically recalled (1) as the lad who chopped down the cherry tree and wouldn't lie about it, and (2) the general who crossed the Delaware. In addition he is credited, by memory of the doggerel rather than by any understanding of the substance which inspired it, as being (in 2-4 times):

First in war, First in peace, First in the hearts of his countrymen.

Historical fact of the matter is that Washington held the post little revolutionary country together by the main force of his character. In the field he was a MacArthur magnified both as to the extent and the difficulty of his military operations, and he faced many dark hours.

He would have been somewhat puzzled by the references in Donald Nelson's statement of yesterday to "production," to planes and tanks. He would have known however, what the man meant when he cited the "courage and the spirit that has always animated American troops."

And he would have been quick to get the drift of what Nelson was talking about, and the circumstances that prompted it, when he went on to say:

"Monday, February 23" will be celebrated as Washington's birthday. The best way to observe this year will be to make Monday a day of full production in every shop and factory producing essential goods for the war effort. If in any plant a holiday is scheduled for next Monday—cancel it."

In Sight

Without Retreads, the End Of Private Motoring Nears

With the freest last midnight of rubber stocks and retreading tires, and the simultaneous ban on the sale of used or retreaded tires by dealers, the end was in sight for many pleasure cars. There are now only two ways an automobile owner who is ineligible to receive a ration board certificate can replace his present tires. He can buy from some private citizen, or he can steal. The former method is certain to be expensive and the latter, to say the least, is increasingly dangerous. A majority of motorists will be neither rich enough nor sufficiently influential to find a tire for sale, and it is to be hoped that few will risk having their heads blown off by tampering with another man's wheels.

For most of us, the only course is to estimate how many miles are left on our present tires and institute a system of self-rationing. We know that 70 per cent of the world's rubber supply is now controlled by Japan. We know that another 20 per cent is seriously threatened. Exactly how long Japan can hold these sources, there have been many optimistic observers can't foresee our getting much raw rubber from Malaya and the East Indies in less than three or four years. It may be five or ten years before we get any. It will be hard, therefore, to produce in quantities large enough to supply more than military needs. There is no longer room for hope. To the extent that our daily lives are dependent upon free use of the passenger car, in like amount must our lives henceforth be changed.

Save That Man

Losing MacArthur Would Be Worse Than Losing Bataan

It looks like the Japs may get MacArthur this time. Up until now the Bataan peninsula campaign has followed a fairly regular pattern. The Japs have bombed, shelled, attacked, been defeated and then, inevitably, fresh reinforcements have landed on the island. MacArthur, fighting one of the great delaying actions of all time, has beaten back the enemy so many times that when he is overwhelmed and checked it seems to fall in high places. Even so, no general can hold out indefinitely against odds of ten to one on the ground and so to nothing in the air.

The impact of losing perhaps our greatest general and some of the bravest fighting men alive seems to be too dreadful a prospect, let us not wait until after Bataan and Corregidor fall to ask the question: "What if MacArthur wasn't reinforced, let

us ask it now, and understanding the evident military impossibility of the task with our present means and from the remaining bases open to us, hold our peace when the blow comes.

As for the General himself, he ought to be evacuated from Bataan, whether he wants to leave or not. He is probably dead or dying, and he is probably not entirely with him. There is further work for Douglas MacArthur to do and the High Command in Washington will be remiss in its duty if an attempt is not made to save him.

Completion of the Japanese occupation of the Philippines would certainly be no further great loss to our side. At present the islands are useless to us. Unless and until we could take them back intact aren't going to help much. On the other hand, if the Japs capture MacArthur himself, they will exploit it as an even greater making of face than the capture of Singapore. They will say, and truthfully, that they have taken our best general. Our only chance of saving face in the Orient would be to capture Premier Tojo himself, or someone of equal importance, to be exchanged for MacArthur. Otherwise our name would be mud all over the Far East.

President Roosevelt, Commander-in-Chief of the Army, is perhaps the only man at whose order MacArthur would consent to leave the Philippines. If Mr. Roosevelt does not issue the order and provide the means for saving MacArthur, the nation most certainly will want to know why.

Hold-Out

Federal Bureaucrats Refuse To Undertake War Conversion

Bojourners in the nation's capital these days come home with an impression of the place most often expressed in one of the significant statements of 1942: "Washington is a madhouse." Apparently there is no disagreement about it. The place teems with frustrated people and confused officials. On this score even the most cynical cynic would agree that any semblance of order is brought out of the chaos.

It is also agreed that much of the trouble springs from crowded offices and congested living quarters. On this score even the most cynical cynic would agree that any semblance of order is brought out of the chaos.

Exactly how many new Federal employees have poured into Washington since last November is not known, but there have been many thousands. And the influx continues.

In a sense, our Federal bureaucracy is starting out on the same kind of a binge the automobile industry began in the palm days before Pearl Harbor. It has been buying production of passenger cars and converting to the manufacture of planes and tanks, the leaders of this industry insisted on building new factories (government-financed) for airplanes and kept the auto assembly lines going at top speed. For this short-sighted and near disastrous policy, the auto industrialists were showered with criticism.

Yet, in Washington today, bureau is piled upon bureau, and division upon division. Thousands of persons are working in offices whose functions are considerably less essential in war time than the production of passenger cars. Even in time of peace, many of these bureaus are luxuries of questionable worth.

It would be much easier leaving political considerations aside to transfer the employees of these non-essential Government agencies into war work than to convert an automobile worker into a plane builder.

But our butter-fed bureaucrats prefer to see new agencies set up in haste there are added to the Government payroll. They are saving the auto industry the expense and the inconvenience of being converted into war work. It is not surprising that the Government care more about the political power of patronage and their own fat salaries than they do about winning the war.

From the pensions future, one gathers that the Almighty helps everyone but Congressmen who help themselves.

Popular Plaintiff

By Paul Mallon

ANSWERS of the average citizen to Government officials who have called him a socialist continue coming to this desk in the shape of letters and volume suggestions all in all is not straightened out yet.

Promised clean-up of the Civilian Defense and Department of Governmental Administration will do much toward re-establishing the confidence between citizen and Government which is essential to success in our war effort, according to my mail it leaves the chief popular plaintiff untouched.

ECONOMY WATCHDOG COULD BE APPOINTED The public demand is that the taxpayers and bond buyers, straining to give every possible cent to the war effort, receive some convincing assurance that their money is being wisely and economically spent.

This should be easier to meet than the other two. Mr. Hoover's office could appoint some economy-minded authority whose name would inspire confidence such as a man as well as Senator Ford and let him chase and eradicate waste. Or perhaps the job could be done by the Federal comptroller, which is now trailing the same subject, but too far behind.

A second step toward improving the merit in the street factory and bargeyard might well be the search hereafter for a supporting fact that only one of my growing list of complaints is disqualified with production. Public disclosure on this score seems released since the reorganization of the Federal Bureau of Investigation of the Donald Nelson to do the job, although this was the worst spot until the

But a number of people apparently still believe the greater half of the war effort is in the hands of factories, the chief list those of Hensington, Landis, MacArthur, Hopkins.

MORE PUBLIC CRITICISM

FRANK THE MAILBAG I believe it is my duty to continue reporting the responses of the people who complain of government waste, greater earnestness and volume than upon any subject in my previous twelve years of columnar.

In furtherance of that duty, here are excerpts from the last industrial list in industry. "Out of hundreds of New Deal bureaucrats, and put the bureaucrats in the front line of industry."

"Every newspaper is to blame for the attitude that every citizen should be a public speaker. What we want is efficiency and the absence of deception. Give us more efficient leadership and we will give you more efficient leadership and we will give you more efficient leadership and we will give you more efficient leadership."

About Jiminson Series

Money For Food

The Lexington Dispatch English correspondents who have taken note of the public interest expressed by articles concerning the manner in which the State care—those who are caring for the sick and women in its insane asylum emphasize that prisoners in the State are much better in expenditures of public money for food and general care.

It is stated that official figures at Raleigh show that the average cost of food for the prisoners, including the value of farm produce, is about thirty cents a day. While the average cost of food for the insane asylum wards is well under twenty cents a day, including value of farm produce, it is believed that the average cost of food for the insane asylum wards is well under twenty cents a day. While the average cost of food for the insane asylum wards is well under twenty cents a day, including value of farm produce, it is believed that the average cost of food for the insane asylum wards is well under twenty cents a day.

About That Fatal Nazi 'Apology'

The announcement of Marshal Von Richthofen's death from a bullet wound in the chest is a bitter-sweet. People are asking whose apology he died of.

TODAY'S BIBLE THOUGHT

No one has a patent on God. You can have your own God, but you can't have His. Him that heareth say come.—Rev. 22:17.

Summer Rendezvous?

—By Harblock



Singapore--And The Critics

By Dorothy Thompson

NEW YORK. ALL right... all right... I read Cecil Brown, and so did Gorbels. It's quoting him all over the place. Yes, I know the show in Singapore was not so good. Yes, I know about the conspiracy. Yes, I know they didn't follow a certain path policy. Yes, I know I know what it means. Maybe I know what it means better than you do—the fall of Singapore.

LETTERS TO THE EDITORS

When Do We Fight?

Editors, The News: We keep hearing our Government officials say we are not asking for our danger, or that we do not want to be in a war. Well, I would like to know what they expect us to do. We have taken all restrictions without complaint and I am sure we can take more. I expect to do so. We buy bonds, we pay taxes, we have pledged ourselves to work harder at our jobs, whatever they may be.

THE BRITISH DIDN'T HAVE TO FIGHT

The British didn't have to have a war with Japan and they didn't have to have a war with Hitler. Do you know that? They could have avoided the conflict in the words and made a deal with both our enemies—Japan and Hitler. A military deal, a financial deal, a trade deal. All they had to do was agree about spheres of influence in the Western Hemisphere and the East. Hitler's aim was that they didn't do it.

Side Glances

Did you ever look at the map? There are twenty million Anglo-Saxon members of the English-speaking world outside the United States and they are scattered from Land's End to hell and gone. Not quite two years ago they had the Germans at the gates and they weren't any anti-aircraft guns in Britain, either. Forty-seven million people in a little island and they could starve in a fortnight. And for a year and a half they held the world at bay alone. They could make any impression on you? You?

Senator Soaper Says!

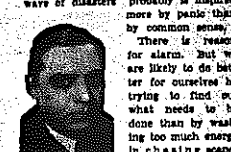
Among shorthairs 'just ahead may be one in a while, as the staff of 20 cents a bunch dredged up old letters unsuitable for reading to jurists.

In a war, we shouldn't begrudge the lawmaker a modest pension. Congress was a good fellow when the Treasury had it.

We Must Have Time

By Raymond Clapper

THIS frantic scramble to find scapegoats upon whom to blame our war of disasters probably is inspired more by panic than common sense.



I find myself fixing on two wills. First, the United Nations simply will have to arm themselves more strongly before we can hope to stand up to the enemy at every point. There has been blundering, but if no one had blundered at all during the last year we still would have had hard going. Japan might not have had it so easy if Pearl Harbor had not been a disaster to us. Still, even when we had our whole Navy in operating condition, our military people were begging for more time because they did not feel strong enough to go to war against Japan.

FIRST THE ARMS, THEN THE OFFENSIVE

Our side is short of planes, tanks, navy, shipping and all the accessories. We cannot have enough force on hand standing ready at every point that the enemy might attack. Until our Navy has recovered its strength we cannot hope to take the offensive, because in the fighting off our own shore shipping and a Navy that can protect it are necessary. You can't get fighter planes across the ocean without ships.

American production and training of American manpower, both military and industrial, are necessary before the balance can be turned. If not another single blunder is made, the United Nations ought to be definitely on the offensive and American forces come more fully into play. So the future of the war is to be decided here in this country, in the factories and the training camps.

Second, the United Nations are indispensable to each other. We cannot win without the help of the British, the Russians and perhaps the Chinese. They cannot win without our help. The Dutch may be knocked out as a factor. The others must stick it out together, or each will rack defeat separately. If they were knocked out one by one, it would be a question how long we could keep the war out of this country.

AIR CONTROL NEEDED TO OVERCOME DISTANCE

At Singapore, Japan is 2,000 miles from home and the British are 8,000 miles to Java, where Japan is striking now. San Francisco is 4,500 miles from Japan. The Atlantic is 3,000 miles across, and less than 2,000 in the South Atlantic from Africa to Brazil. Great distances can be overcome if you control the sea and the air, as has been demonstrated against us with savage effectiveness now.

Japan controls now the whole other side of the Pacific. Only Hawaii remains as a rubicon. In the Atlantic we still have Britain as an outpost. Let the Germans shock that outpost by running their fleet through the Channel. If they add the French fleet to their own strength now about to be released for action on the Atlantic, we may expect to be hard pressed. The Germans have out-thought us with submarines. They are working up and down our coasts and have now shifted the vital oil refinery on the Dutch island of Aruba, inside the Caribbean ring which guards Panama.

If the British are having their Pearl Harbor, we have to remember that we need the help of every nation that will stay in the war. No matter how far the British are pushed back, whatever is left is that much help. Whatever is left of the Russians and the Chinese is a help. Resistance at any point, even the feeblest, helps to break through the Channel.

Visitin' Around

Maybe He Only Missed It (Intelligence Item, Rediviva Review) Home Sharp had the misfortune of losing a mule this week. Spew Cfar Item, Winnaboo News & Herald) Mr. and Mrs. Max Stevenson M. and daughter, Grace, were in Winnaboo Tuesday. They also attended the movies in the night. How Times Don't Change! (34 Year Ago, Transylvania Times) We hear that a Chicago boy shot a politician whom he mistook for a burglar. The Chicago burglar would prefer being shot to being mistaken for a politician. It was absurd.



"I inspected that snooty woman's attic today, and if she'd spend as much time cleaning up there as she spends at the beauty parlor, she might not look so fresh but our fire hazard would be reduced!"