THE CHARLOTTE NEWS

And Evening Chronicle

Published Every Afternoon Except Sunday by The News Publishing Company, Inc.

W. C. Dowd Jr., President and General Manager — J. E. Dowd, Vice-President and Editor

● W. C. Dowd, 1865-1927 ●

The daily edition of The Charlotte News was established in 1888. The Evening Chronicle (established 1903) was purchased by and consolidated with The Charlotte News May 8, 1914.

The News desires to be notified promptly of errors in any of its reports that proper correction may be made at once.

MEMBER ASSOCIATED PRESS

The Associated Press is exclusively entitled to the use for republication of all news dispatches credited to it or not otherwise credited to this paper, and also the local news published herein.

Entered as second-class matter at the Post Office at Charlotte, N. C., under the act of March 3, 1879.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES

By carrier: 20 cents a week; one month, 87 cents. By mail: One month, $7 cents; three months, $2.60; six months, $5.20; one year, $10.40.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 1942

Eight Hours

—CIO Shipyard Workers Stick to A Day's Work in Wartime

The 40-hour week, like many another New Deal reform made obsolete by war, has come home to roost. For the Bethlehem Steel shipyard workers in San Pedro, Cal., it was not enough that they were offered straight pay for eight hours each day, time and a half pay for two over-time hours and an additional ten per cent bonus. Nor did it matter that they were working on U. S. destroyers. They just weren't going to work more than eight hours.

The union, a CIO affiliate, explained that its contract called for eight hours and only eight hours a day. And as everyone knows, winning the war isn't nearly so important as retaining the tokens of labor's progress.

At the heart of the dispute was the fact that Bethlehem had switched from three shifts to two shifts. Working three shifts required about one-third more employees. And to the union, more employees meant more union initiation fees, more union dues collected. But more employees also meant that a greater strain was put on the nation's limited supply of skilled manpower. It meant a slowing down of production until new workers could be trained. But the union had its contract, and it stipulated a 40-hour week.

Incensing? Sure it is incensing! But what are we going to do about it?

Hog-Meat

Wanted: Ersatz Breakfast Bacon; Must Be Reasonable

As far as hog-meat prices are concerned, this 110 per cent of parity business in the Price Control Act may confuse housewives; but it doesn't soften the blow to their pocketbooks.

Fact is, top porkers in Chicago are selling for about 13.25 cents a pound—on the hoof. By the time they get to be bacon, well it's nice to look at, and the smell of it cooking on some frosty morning sharpens the appetite to razor-edge.

According to the Government's own figures, 110 per cent of the Jan. 15 parity price for hogs (below which Agriculture Secretary Wickard may decline to allow price-fixing) is only 11.59 cents a pound. The average price from 1910 until 1929—as lush a boom era as you could choose—was a mere 9.7 cents.

Now then, if a fellow could raise himself a dozen good 200-pound shoats every year, he ought to be able to get around $300 for them. Of course, that isn't so much, compared with what a skilled shipyard worker could make in a month. But when you consider that only eight or nine years ago, shipyard workers were crowding the relief rolls and the Government was killing the little pigs just to get them out of the way, it doesn't seem so bad.

The News

Even the Children Sense Its Awful Content

At mid-week, America catches her breath after three black days. Since Sunday there has been no let-up in the news—most of it bad.

Another great Japanese armada had been smashed in the Indies—but not before swarms of invading troops had been landed on Bali. If the Japs capture the whole island, the last Dutch stronghold of Java would be outflanked by Bali on the east and Sumatra on the west.

It was announced that our Coast Guard Cutter, *Alexander Hamilton*, had been plugged by a Nazi torpedo with the same deadly accuracy Aaron Burr used against the craft's namesake. Two more merchant ships went down in the Atlantic at the same hands.

Then, almost at the moment when President Roosevelt was warning against further attacks along our coast, an enemy sub popped up off the California coast only some 60 miles north of Los Angeles and began pumping shells into an American oil refinery. For only the second time since a British fleet sailed unopposed up Chesapeake Bay and the Potomac to burn Washington (during the War of 1812) had foreign shells burst on our own shores.

Nor was that all. The very elements seemed to conspire against us. Great storms churned the North Atlantic. The U. S. destroyer *Truxton* and the cargo ship *Pulitar* were dashed against reefs off Newfoundland, with heavy loss of life.

The birthday of the Red Army came and went and Joseph Stalin failed to announce the great victories that had been expected.

In Britain there was renewed interest in the possibility of a German invasion. London heard reports that hundreds of thousands of German troops had been training daily for the attack — troops considered so important that they were never risked on other battlefronts.

From Egypt came word that Rommel was preparing another major offensive. No doubt about it. Adolf Hitler was scheming something.

The news, both in its detail and its ominous import, was bad, and gave prospect of worsening. The United States was in for it. Even the school children knew now that something awful was happening, while in the minds of everyone who went about his daily tasks churned one thought which dominated all others.

To them at last, they comprehended, had come the test of tests.

Blueprint

Long Ago Japan Served Bold Notice of Her Intentions

In his address Monday night the President explained why it was that we were prevented from sending "substantial reinforcements" to MacArthur and his men in the Philippines. "I ask you to look at your maps again," he said, and pointed out how the Philippines were boxed in by Chinese and Indo-Chinese bases on the west, Japan herself on the north, while on the east—

> "On the east are the mandated islands which Japan had occupied exclusively and had fortified in absolute violation of her written word. These islands, hundreds of them, appear only as small dots on most maps. But they cover a large strategic area."

It was 1922 that Japan, in return for purely opportunistic support to the Allies of World War I, fell into the military prize of a mandate over the Marshall and Caroline Islands in the South Pacific. How soon she began to fortify these islands despite the terms of her mandate from the League of Nations is anybody's guess. Ours would be that she began not later than the minute she took title.

At any rate, not very many years had passed before it became common knowledge that fortifications were under way in these islands. Japan did not trouble to deny the accusations, counting instead on the world's absorption first with prosperity and then with depression to divert attention from what she was up to.

As the fortifications progressed and as Japan got away with greater audacities, such as the seizure of Manchuria from China in 1931, her military men dared to tell the world what they were up to, as though to dare the world to do anything at all about it. In that spirit there was published in United States newspapers in early 1936, and reprinted in the Congressional Record, the following brazen statement by Admiral Takahashi, commander in chief of the Japanese fleets:

> "Unless America renounces her naval policy aimed at the expansion and protection of her foreign trade, Japan will be forced to extend the cruising radius of her fleets to New Guinea, Celebes, and Borneo, and establish footholds in Formosa and the mandated South Sea Islands."

Strange, outlandish place names, they were then, those which the Jap admiral cited. But to naval men they were significant: Formosa to the British for its adjacence to Hong Kong and to the Americans for its bearing on the Philippines; New Guinea, Celebes and Borneo to the British and the Dutch (and the French) for their dominance of the approaches to Singapore, Java and French Indo-China, and the mandated islands to the U. S. for the barrier their fortification would raise against communications with the Philippines. But if these naval men took the threat seriously, they considered it either indiscreet or futile to raise a rumpus about it.

That the Japs violated their solemn pledge not to fortify these islands is now a matter more of academic than of practical interest. The time to have gone to the mat with them was then, not now. Indeed, that is the lesson which the world must learn from the whole sorry mess in which it finds itself: that wars must be prevented before they start, nations held accountable to their obligations when first they repudiate them.

The New Tax Bill

By Paul Mallon

WASHINGTON

HUDDLED heads in the Treasury, House and Senate have just about reached a conclusion of what is needed in the next tax boost bill—another 30 to 50 per cent general increase to bring in around $9,000,000,000 more than now.

How they are going to get it is another thing. The Treasury people have been in conference with Senator George and Representative Doughton trying to iron out matters in advance. Shy as always, the Treasury is making "suggestions" and wants Congress to take the initiative. The Treasury always likes to get what it wants, but never likes to espouse openly a "program."

CORPORATIONS MAY BE VICTIMS AGAIN

What it wants this time seems to run roughly along this line:

Another $3,000,000,000 touch upon corporations through sharply raised profits levies.

(Treasury still likes its oft-defeated plan to treat excess profits on the basis of capitalization alone, but may drop it, as both George and Doughton are opposed.)

Another $2,000,000,000 increase in individual income taxes. Through stiffer rates and lowering of the exemptions to a "subsistence level." How much income an individual needs to subsist has not been officially mentioned, but there is talk of reducing the exemptions on single persons to $500 (from $750).

An increase of $600,000,000 to $800,000,000 in excise taxes. (This is going to be difficult because the Government will lose much excise revenue from automobiles, tires, radios, refrigerators, gasoline, etc., due to rationing.)

> An increase of $2,000,000,000 in social security taxes by increasing the payroll tax as well as extending the system to many classes now exempt. (Farm? Domestic?)

A windfall of $1,000,000,000 by plugging loopholes (abolishing separate returns from husbands and wives, altering the oil depletion allowances, etc.)

A further increase of $120,000,000 to $200,000,000 in the estates and gift taxes.

SALES TAX VS. "SOCIAL SECURITY"

This would make $9,000,000,000 or more comfortably, but much of it is subject to disagreement. Senator George wants a special war excess profits tax on corporations, a separate new tax. Considerable dissention has arisen around the new social security taxes. Many Congressmen want a sales tax on the ground it would be less painful than any other form.

> Eased out of the argument apparently is the old Treasury proposal for a withholding tax on salaries. The AFL and CIO have been busy against this Government form of check-off, both in Congress and in the Administration. Some Congressmen have threatened if it is brought up they will offer a sales tax as a substitute.

For one of these two reasons or both, the Treasury is soft-pedaling.

You can certainly anticipate that the increases will be no heavier than the Treasury "suggestions" and probably will be considerably lighter.

About Jimison Series:

Disgrace To State

Wilson Daily Times

The Jimison articles, to which we referred briefly yesterday, are still exciting considerable comment and interest, and they should.

Through no fault of the mentally deficient they are sent to Raleigh and to Morganton, where we have State hospitals.

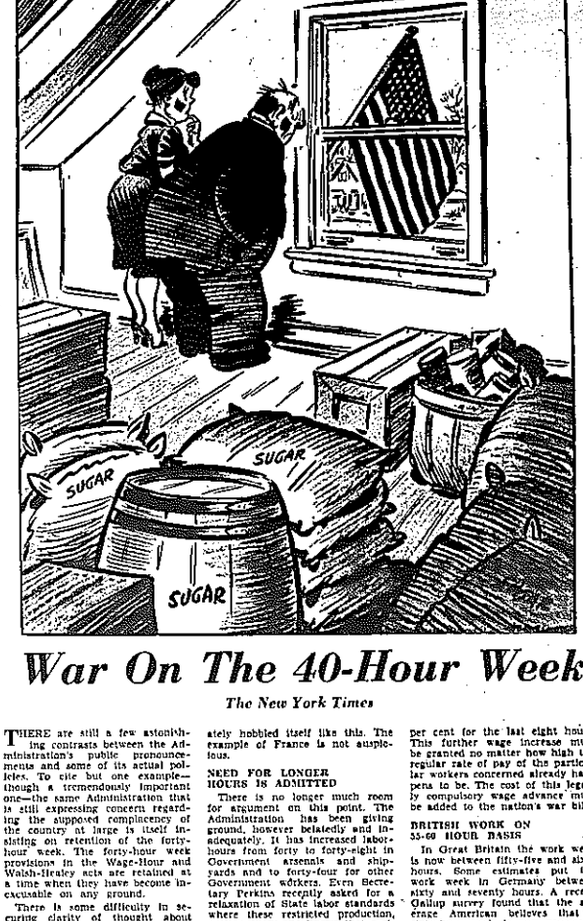
Marvelous strides have been made in psychiatry and the treatment of the mind, and we have long believed a clinic of this kind should be located at our State institutions, equipped with the most expert talent that can be secured. Mental weaknesses are nothing but a disease and if taken in time and treated systematically and efficiently a cure can be effected, and the mind made eventually to function properly.

Certainly all mental diseases should be looked after by physicians competent to deal with such cases and should be given most sympathetic attention and their weaknesses not imposed upon. To take a patient with a diseased mind and place him among a horde of diseased lunatics is not fair. Not only is the cost of upkeep as given from the State hospital too small to provide proper food and medical service, but there is nothing left out of this insignificant sum to build up a clinic capable of studying the diseases of the mind. We insist this feature should have the careful attention of experts and should be provided these institutions.

The people who send their relatives and friends to these hospitals are taxpayers, and they are entitled to all the care and protection the State can give. If any reasonable number of these patients can be brought back to life and hope and recovery of their mental health certainly it will be an investment that will repay itself many times, and the State owes it to itself and to its people, its honor and its pride to supply the facilities that are necessary to make these institutions as capable as possible for the treatment of the unfortunate people who are compelled to enter a hospital.

"Yeah—I Guess We Better Take 'Em Back"

—By Herblock



War On The 40-Hour Week

The New York Times

THERE are still a few astonishing contrasts between the Administration's public pronouncements and some of its actual policies. To cite but one example—though a tremendously important one—the same Administration that is still expressing concern regarding the supposed inefficiency of the country at large is itself insisting on retention of the forty-hour week. The forty-hour week provisions in the Wage-Hour and Walsh-Healey acts are retained at a time when they have become inexcusable on any ground.

There is some difficulty in securing clarity of thought about these provisions because of their ambiguous nature. Administration spokesmen have sometimes defended them as a necessary limitation of actual hours of work. When they have felt this position to be untenable they have in effect declared that they are not primarily provisions restricting hours but primarily provisions regulating wages. When we examine them from either aspect, however, we find that they are, under present conditions, indefensible.

PURPOSE WAS TO SOLVE UNEMPLOYMENT

Let us examine them first for what they ostensibly are, and for what most of the Congressmen who voted for them thought they were when they passed them—genuine restrictions on hours. At the time that the present Wage-Hour Law was being debated in Congress one supporter of the bill after another rose to say flatly that the hour provisions "prohibited" employment for more than forty-four hours a week in the first year, forty-two hours in the second and forty hours thereafter. The theory behind this part of the bill, however questionable, was that the way to solve unemployment was to force the employment of more men to do the same amount of work. These provisions were inserted, certainly, not on the assumption of a labor shortage such as is now rapidly developing under the tremendous impact of an all-out war, but on the assumption of a labor surplus.

ADMINISTRATION PRODUCES NEW THEORY

When the type of unemployment conditions under which this act was passed ceased to exist, however, Administration spokesmen turned to a new theory. It was that any increase above a forty-hour week would actually decrease production. In December of 1940 the Secretary of Labor called for "realistic recognition of the wartime necessity of shorter hours for greater production." Now experience shows, and every one of sense recognizes, that when working hours are extended beyond a certain point fatigue sets in and the hourly rate of production declines. When working hours are stretched still further even total production declines. But experience has shown also, and common sense recognizes, that this maximum-production point is substantially above forty hours a week. This point naturally varies with the type of work being done. A recent study by the Twentieth Century Fund concluded that the maximum-output week lies between forty-eight to sixty hours for most occupations in the United States.

By retaining a forty-hour week we are clearly restricting our own production. If the maximum-production week is sixty hours, then by a forty-hour week we are keeping ourselves from a 50 per cent increase in production. Even if the maximum-production is only forty-eight hours, we are keeping ourselves from at least a 20 per cent increase in production. No other wartime nation but France deliberately hobbled itself like this. The example of France is not auspicious.

NEED FOR LONGER HOURS IS ADMITTED

There is no longer much room for argument on this point. The Administration has been giving ground, however belatedly and inadequately. It has increased labor-hours from forty to forty-eight in Government arsenals and shipyards and to forty-four for other Government workers. Even Secretary Perkins recently asked for a relaxation of State labor standards where these restricted production, though every one knows that such restrictions are trivial compared with those in the Federal Wage-Hour Act, concerning which no suggestion for amendment has been made from Administration sources.

Instead, another new defense of the hour provision in the act has been found by Administration spokesmen. It is that these do not really restrict hours at all, because there is nothing to prevent an employer from working his employees even sixty or eighty hours a week—if he will only pay them time-and-a-half for overtime. This view, set forth frequently by Secretary Perkins and other Administration spokesmen, is utterly unrealistic. It ignores the very purpose of the law originally, which was to make it prohibitively costly for employers to maintain a working week of more than forty hours.

The employer was forced to pay a penalty of 50 per cent for maintaining longer hours when that was considered unpatriotic. He is now forced to pay a penalty of 50 per cent on longer hours even when the Government urges him for patriotic reasons to extend those hours. Looking at the matter from the other side, the Government is now saying, in effect, that while longer hours are necessary and every one must make sacrifices and inflation is deplorable, workers who work forty-eight hours cannot do so unless they are granted a wage advance of 50 per cent for the last eight hours. This further wage increase must be granted no matter how high the regular rate of pay of the particular workers concerned already happens to be. The cost of this legally compulsory wage advance must be added to the nation's war bill.

BRITISH WORK ON 55-60 HOUR BASIS

In Great Britain the work week is now between fifty-five and sixty hours. Some estimates put the work week in Germany between sixty and seventy hours. A recent Gallup survey found that the average American believes that a sixty-hour week is now necessary. Surely a compromise amendment is possible here. Congress should pass the moderate bill introduced by Senator Reed of Kansas which proposes that overtime rates shall not be legally compulsory until an employee has worked forty-eight hours in one week.

This would not be asking labor to work more hours for less pay. It would not be asking labor to work more hours for the same pay. It would be asking labor to work more hours — up to forty-eight — for proportionately higher pay. This would allow increased production without forcing up excessively the unit cost of production. It would allow small firms to work longer hours without prohibitive penalties. It would permit thousands of workers to earn more through a longer week, an opportunity they are now denied because of penalty rates. It would permit three shifts instead of four shifts on a twenty-four-hour day. We should not, in short, be cutting down our own labor force by nearly 20 per cent at a time when it is the very height of folly to do so.

> **The task of converting these dollars into weapons and ships out on the firing line becomes more urgent daily. There is going to be far less time than we expected to have. Production now is what counts most. It is easily possible that we may fail to get enough help across the ocean to prevent some most disastrous defeats before Summer is over. There are appalling weaknesses in the forces of the United Nations which are causing great anxiety. We have been able to send Russia far less than we had promised. The Middle East is in desperate need of American help.**
>
> **This is material that must be made and shipped within the next two or three months. Serious thought is being given in the Government to organizing some kind of special management-labor drive to induce an output above that called for in the contracts. It is not enough now to get out contracts on schedule. We are in the same fix—although it is not so obvious—as the British were after Dunkerque when, for a short stretch, their factories worked without regard to time, and men labored twelve to fifteen hours a day.**
>
> **MANAGEMENT AND LABOR MUST PUT ON EXTRA SPURT**
>
> **Both management and labor will have to be induced somehow to take on this extra spurt, to save the war from reaching a most desperate low in the next 90 days or so. Drives, honors for extra output, waiving of controversies for the time being—anything that will dramatize and advertise the close call of the next three months or so.**
>
> **This also means joint participation of management and labor in discussions with War Production Board officials.**
>
> **Unfortunately, that kind of procedure, started recently in the consumer-durable-goods branch of WPB, has been abandoned under the new people put in charge recently.**
>
> **That is not any policy on the part of Donald Nelson, who didn't know about it and who in fact is moving the other way to establish joint management-labor committees to advise War Production Board officials. Nelson is convinced, I think, that if we are to get maximum production both management and labor must be in on the play and be constantly contributing their ideas to War Production Board officials who will have the power to act.**

TODAY'S BIBLE THOUGHT

Minute watchfulness is needed in character too: *Catch us the foxes, the little foxes that are despoiling the vineyards, since our vineyards are in bloom.—Songs 2-15.*

Side Glances

"Have you a book about the Spartans? I feel so much like one since I decided to give up sweets for the duration!"

The Next 90 Days

By Raymond Clapper

WASHINGTON

IN basing over the broad strategy of the war and the danger of losing more vital points in the Indian Ocean and the Middle East in the near future, the purpose is not to belittle other nations fighting on our side.

If we point out that the British are having a hard time holding, and that Egypt as well as India is in danger, it is not to discredit their efforts but to try to emphasize the danger of defeat and the extra load that this situation throws upon us.

It is all a way of trying to say that we need not only more production but more than we ever dreamed would be needed and that we need it now. As Donald Nelson says, a ship now is worth ten next year.

MAXIMUM PRODUCTION NEEDED FOR ALLIED POOL

Every possible resource of ourselves and the British is needed, used in a pool, to check the dangerous onrush that every day is cutting off our routes of supply and taking away future bases from which the offensive can be waged. Unless these resources are used jointly so that the combined strength is multiplied—instead of merely added, as it is when used separately — Russia and China will have all the greater difficulty in holding on.

THERE'S NO LACK OF MONEY FOR PROGRAM

This comes down at home to more intense effort by management and labor. The money for facilities is ample. The War Production Board reports that authorized expenditures for war plus requests now pending in Congress total $145,000,000,000, an incredible sum.

Visitin' Around

Retreat

(Adv. Lenoir News-Topic)

ANNOUNCEMENT!

I have moved my Shooting Gallery from West Harper to (Hog Wallow) on South Church Street.

CRIP'S SHOOTING GALLERY

Cowgirl, 1942 Style

(New Hope Item, Monroe Journal)

Miss Dorothy May Cook, who was riding a bicycle last Sunday afternoon, had the misfortune to be thrown off and broke her shoulder bone. She appears to be doing fine.