

THE CHARLOTTE NEWS

And Evening Chronicle

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THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 1942

Confidence

FDR Follows Up a Promise With Appropriate Action

Your Government has unmistakable confidence in your ability to hear the worst, without flinching or losing heart. You must, in turn, have complete confidence that your Government is keeping nothing from you except information that will help the enemy.

Thus the President of the United States made a compact with the people Monday night. It was more than sedative; it was a solemn promise—and one that he was not long in backing up with action.

Last night Navy Secretary Knox released the most comprehensive summary of naval losses by both sides to be made public since the war began. It was significant not only because it listed the damage inflicted on the enemy, but for the further reason that it went as far as any statement could go in summing up the attacks on our ships without giving obvious aid and comfort to the Axis.

Secretary Knox told how many of our ships had been attacked, the zones in which the attacks had occurred. He could not have been expected to say how many of the attacks were successful.

It was a frank statement, colored a bit optimistically perhaps by those "naval officers" whom the press associations quoted but do not name, but one that leaves no room for doubt and suspicion.

The people cannot afford to listen to those who, for selfish or seditious reasons, are attempting to undermine this confidence. Now can the Government, if it wishes to avoid disaster, give just cause for suspicion and mistrust.

Lazy Justice

Charlotte's Police and Court Are Known for Inefficiency

Judge Pless is by no means the first Superior Court Judge to complain of the laziness of the Police Department. Others have reprimanded the department and its employer, the City, for failure to take prompt and effective action in criminal cases.

In the last Congress not Lend-Lease or the wire-tapping bill (defeated) or the defense highway (pork) bill or the crucial eight-months military service bill (passed by one vote) or any of the bills to unshackle the supplying of aid to our allies ever elicited a fraction of the public interest and response which was drawn out by this grab bill. Organized and un-American minorities ranted over them, to be sure, but the American people remained aloof and, as far as Congress could tell, unconcerned.

An issue to rouse the people has got to be evidently a personalized issue. They have to see it, that is, as somebody doing something wrong or right or wise or foolish before it excites them. That is why the President's proposals, without regard to their merit or demerit, usually meet with a reception that is automatically favorable or unfavorable among the people who like him and automatically unfavorable among the people who dislike him. What moves them is not the measure but the man. Liking him, they are for just about anything he may do. Disliking him, they are agin it.

The Killer

Speed Was Public Enemy No. 1 in America Last Year

Using the automobile—or, if you will, mauling it—cost America 40,000 lives last year. Put it another way: The automobile killed half an army division of able-bodied men capable of serving their country on the battlefield, and an equal number capable of serving in the factory. It killed, in the single year of 1941, more Americans than the Germans were able to shoot in World War I plus those that have died fighting the Japs. And it didn't cost the Axis a man, a plane, or a bullet.

Unquestionable, did you say? Listen:

More than 90 per cent of the vehicles involved in fatal and non-fatal accidents were in good mechanical condition at the time of the crash.

Eighty-two per cent of all fatal accidents occurred on dry roads and 87 per cent happened in clear weather.

Clearly, it wasn't mechanical failure or bad weather that was responsible for the toll.

The killer in 1941 was speed. In almost half the fatal wrecks last year, the crash came because one or both of the drivers involved was exceeding the speed limit.

In no other year since the Government started keeping records of auto accidents has speed been so great a factor in killing motorists.

Speed and reckless driving. Two out of three persons killed on the highways last year died as the result of some reckless or otherwise illegal action on the part of a driver. Two out of three might be alive today if the law had been enforced.

The lesson is obvious. Lower speed limits and insist that drivers stay within them. Enforce all traffic regulations consistently and vigorously. If auto crash fatalities drop about 50 per cent in North Carolina this year, it will be a pretty good indication that the State Highway Patrol meant business when it announced a few weeks ago that it intended to enforce the law.

Cartoon Stuff

Men, Not Measures, Arouse A Response From the People

By empty-ump to almost nothing, the House took back the pensions-for-Congressmen bill which had set the country to roaring. The mood that sat upon the body was one of chagrin. At first Members expressed indignation that such a bill somehow should have got by, but then they were tickled by the small-boy-gets-caught-in-jam aspects of the situation. Anyhow, they set about repeating it with a vengeance, and that was that. Or was it?

If this little incident showed anything, it showed that Congress is still amenable to the power of antagonistic public opinion. But it showed two things, and the second of them is hardly in democracy's favor.

The pension bill was bad in principle, admittedly, but in scope it was of secondary consequence. Yet the people of the country, figuratively speaking, rose up against it as they have not risen up against a single one of a dozen Congressional actions or inactions which were a sight more important.

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Assailed on every side as loafers, parasites and leeches are the many press agents on the Washington payroll. Clearly what the boys need is a good press agent.

In the southwest, police seek a store bandit who springs bad puns on the victim. Or carries a pun while, armed is properly a felony.

One strives to think of uses for all the red tape now being unwound in Washington. However, priorities may take our galluses yet.

Answer To Blitz

By Paul Mellon

WASHINGTON.

GENERAL MacArthur's enthusiasm in writing Joe Stalin congratulations for "his great military achievement in all history" is easily explained.

They found the answer to blitz warfare, Stalin on a grand scale. MacArthur, within the limits of his forces.

The French was not the French way of building great defensive positions or supposedly impregnable fortresses. That is not the British way of trying to hold a defensive line in the retreat to Dunkirk.

And, in fact, it is not the way some Americans like to think comfortably of doing a hampered costume which runs from one pole to the other and back again.

THIS DID GRANT TAKE RICHMOND. Their answer is not intricate. It is not even new. It is the way Grant took Richmond, by coming down the river but always thereafter attacking immediately. It is the technique of taking the first step to the Merze, as disclosed in his dispatch to Joffre:

"My right is exposed, my left flank is attacked, my center is unable to hold. I cannot redistribute my forces. The situation is excellent. I shall attack."

Nor is the scheme exclusive. The Nazi General Rommel is working it on the British in Libya now. MacArthur would probably call the blitz-stopping technique a "bottle of maneuver" in contrast to the "bottle of retreat."

But between all of us non-experts, it is simply the scheme of counter attack.

INSTEAD OF HIGGING IN, THE BLITZ STOPPED. Hitler marched into Russia with the toughest army in the history of the world. He plunged "accidentally" into the ice of Leningrad, Kiev, Smolensk, and then he had to stop to bring up his trucks and supply trucks, airplanes, gasoline.

The French would have started digging in right there piling up thousands of dollars' worth of pillboxes. The Reds counter-attacked. They did not have much, but it was enough to throw the blitz out of gear.

Again in the south, Hitler marshaled initial superior strength against Budapest, then commanding the Red forces in the Ukraine, Budzenny gave ground, but the moment Hitler decided to try to take Moscow before Winter and shifted forces to the north, the Red Ukrainian troops, now under Timoshenko, threw everything they had right back at him. He had only a few tanks and fewer airplanes, but his counter-attacks were successful.

The Winter which Hitler thought would stop hostilities came on, but the Reds did not dig in. They attacked.

JOHNSA LEARNED METHOD FROM MACARTHUR. So also with MacArthur when the Jap General Homma floundered in the Philippines. MacArthur decided to try to take Moscow before Winter and shifted forces to the north, the Red Ukrainian troops, now under Timoshenko, threw everything they had right back at him. He had only a few tanks and fewer airplanes, but his counter-attacks were successful.

The brilliant Nazi Tank General Rommel was hit by a British blitz which drove him halfway to Libya, but the moment the British paused for air, he was in upper Libya with a successful counter-attack.

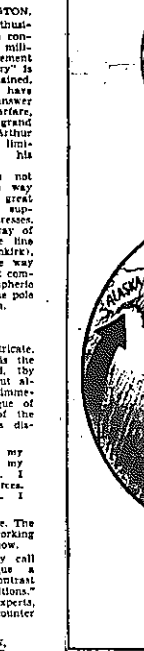
Who Said Hitler Can't Take a Hint? The New Yorker

Some post-mortem reference to "Holla-a-Poppin'" the other day made me think of one of the characters in it—in many ways the most unforgettable performer we ever saw on any stage. This was the man who undertook to extirpate himself from a straight-up, no-holds-barred, no-mercy evening and was still willing desperately in the lobby as the audience filed out on probability home. At least five or six times during the evening a spotlight would fall on his straggling figure, reminding him of his own attention. We speak of him now because we've discovered what it is that keeps reminding us of.

For the past year or so the enormous spotlight of history has illuminated many great and famous plays, but in the end it always swings back and picks up the same old story of mental and almighty comic jeopardy. Just when we're almost forgotten them, preoccupied with some gigantic production number in Russia or Asia, a little item somewhere in the paper, like the one about the Scherhorn and the Gobenstau have once again been bombed by the BAP in Brest. Everything in the play may change on the great stage, but never the predicament of "Zee" who is going to get it hard to imagine what the last day of the war will be like, but the story is strong and true, and there in Brest will be the Scherhorn and the Gobenstau, still being the same old story of mental and almighty comic jeopardy, still struggling hopelessly to put out to sea.

450 Years After Columbus

By Herblock



Stalin Warns His Allies

By Dorothy Thompson

STALIN'S Order of the Day to the Red Army cannot be otherwise interpreted than as a stern warning to the allies. One must consider the circumstances under which it was made—in a nation which has conducted the only brilliant war against Hitler.

No other than General MacArthur testifies to this. In a greeting to the Red Army he said, "In my lifetime I have participated in a number of wars and have witnessed others, as well as studying in great detail the campaigns of outstanding leaders of the past. In none have I observed such effective resistance to the heaviest blows of a hitherto undefeated enemy followed by a smashing counter-attack. The scale and grandeur of the effort marks it as the greatest military achievement in all history."

THE RUSSIAN EFFORT HAS EXCEEDED ALL OTHERS. The effect of the Russian war has been greater than that of all the other allies combined. Their sacrifices, in terms of men and material, have established the entire nation for resistance and offensive to Hitler.

And now, what does Stalin say? First of all, he is astonished and proud. He expresses confidence that he can liberate the Russian soil. He does not hold on to the necessity of a second front. He expresses the hope and expectation that the Hitler regime will be liquidated as the result of this war. But the only condition of Russian victory is that the Germans should get out of Russia.

Stalin does not deny his agreement not to make a separate peace with Hitler. But he does not promise to continue an offensive war, beyond the Soviet Union. He says that Hitler is gathering together a million Hungarians, Rumanians and Bulgarian troops. But the United States has not even declared war on these countries whose armies are fighting our major ally in the field.

THE APPEASERS ARE STILL ACTIVE. So I am sure that this whole business of appeasement, still going on among ourselves—through Mr. McCormick of the Chicago Tribune, if you want an example. And let us compare it with relations with Russia before the war began. Russia is an ally with France and the Little Entente, and was prepared in light under it. It was million by the same as France and he now trying their fellow-nationals at home for losing the war!

It is not surprising that the people of the dollar world are so angry at the prospect of a second front. It is a disaster for France, while Russia adopted isolationism.

If we answer it again going to appease the Russians are in a better position than we are. First, they have proved to be more reliable than we are. Second, they are the most unpopular war with the German people.

Third, the Russians understand today's Bible thought.

You need not be depressed, nor wealthy, nor learned, nor fashionable, nor yet a saint, come to you are. Come to you all of that labor and are being laid, and I will give you rest. For my love upon you, and learn of me, for I am meek and lowly in heart, and ye shall find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light. —Matt. 11:28-30.

Deceptive Criticism

By Raymond Clapper

AGAIN President Roosevelt in his radio address the other night said the United States will fight this war as a war to crush Germany and Japan.

The way to fight that kind of war—off our own shores—would have to be to spend any time drawing diagrams and tracing the map.

That is such a simple common sense that you wouldn't think the President of the United States would have to spend any time drawing diagrams and tracing the map.

But it was necessary. It was necessary because the die-hard remnants of the old isolationist group are doing their best to confuse the American public by yelling for our ships and troops to be brought back and camped on our own coasts to sit there and wait for Germany and Japan to come up and begin shelling and bombing our cities and killing our people here at home. That is the kind of war they propose.

They don't put it in those terms. They say why should we do anything to help Russia lick Hitler. They say why should we do anything to support the British and the Dutch and the Chinese. If they think these nations can win the war without help from us they haven't talked much with our military and naval people. Wouldn't they mind if Japan and Germany won all of Europe, Asia and Africa and then turned full tilt against us—having no other world left to conquer?

That insidious and fatal viewpoint is being pressed into the American public's mind by a group of people which obscures the real danger in such a policy.

NO DEMAGOGUE SPOKE ON MONDAY NIGHT. Because that line is so deceptive and plausible, because it plays upon the prejudice of many people against other nations and blinds them to the fact that every nation fighting Germany and Japan is helping us in just that much—President Roosevelt wisely tried to set the facts straight by going to the map.

Many times he has been accused of being a demagogue. In his radio speech, his whole battle was against the demagogue which, if it succeeded, would trap us into a policy certain to bring the war right here into America, trap us into allowing all other enemies of our country and Japan to go down to defeat one by one, trap us into being left in the end, standing alone.

The policy is so fantastic that it is incredible anyone should think of it seriously. It evaporates when the facts are looked straight in the eye, and that is what President Roosevelt tried to do in his radio address.

"POISON PEDDLING" COVERS THE VICIOUS CRITICISM. As to criticism, no one would be supporting the best interests of the country if he failed to criticize deficiencies in pushing the war effort. The more hammering of incompetents, hammering of activities which divert effort from the war, the better our chance of winning.

Nobody is going to get very far trying to suppress that kind of criticism—and I don't think anybody who needs to be taken very seriously thinks it can or ought to be suppressed. Certainly those who have made such criticisms since Pearl Harbor have suffered no reprisals so far as I can see.

That kind of criticism does not undermine confidence in the war itself. The vicious criticism—or what Mr. Roosevelt called poison peddling—is that which attempts to arouse distrust of the fact that we are fighting this war with the help of other nations, and are trying to do it over there where they are fighting instead of here on our home grounds.

Visitin' Around

Come On, Name Two (Adv. Shelby Daily Star)

I HAVE BEEN SOME BIG FAMILY differences fixed up out of court by buying the wife a sink for the kitchen. Trade Post, North Trade Alley, Orover Beam.

Yeah, And Next fib'd the Wandler! A Flesher Pump To Go With It (Adv. Shelby Star)

THAT MONEY YOU CAN'T SPEND for tires, buy her a real nice drain board sink, save steps and add sales. Try it. Quaranteed to work. Trade Post, North Trade Alley.

Our Problem

By ODOM ALEXANDER

O Brain of Man, under your pseudo mask You invent a problem, a iteration, which doth annoy you.

You created systems, schemes and chaos, Which your wealth and self surmounts, And the reins, Just to decoy you.

You let debt and capital run rampant And heed not the interest rate; Will this decoy you?

In seeking solely the money's land, You become impure and forged your God; Gold did decoy you.

You builded and achieved so much Your own late, You were your own greed shook you

Now just a toy, you. How are you going to determine your fate?

Correct mistakes and improve your state; What will employ you?

Maybe at the brim of progress' reality, The solution lie in mind maturity; Thought will conroy you.

Stalin's reference to the Russian "war of liberation" as contrasted with Russia's "imperialistic wars" may also be taken either as a back-hand thrust or as a warning. It is probably both.

Our strength in the Far East—and Russia's strength—is not that we are defending while supremacy in the Orient, but that we are defending China against an aggressor. And we are getting the help of India. Although the interests of India certainly do not lie with Japan, neither—they feel—do they lie with the maintenance of the rule of the West. Russia's doctrine and practice of racial equality and national independence is today a political weapon of immense power.

The influence in the whole Orient is divided between the western powers and Russia. If our alliance is a sincere one, we can pool that influence. If we do not, we shall lose it either to Japan or Russia. As things are now, it is Russia, and not we, who is appearing in Asia as the prophet and defender of national liberty.

There is another restriction in Stalin's speech, which is an offer to the West. He is making a war of national liberation for us—not a war of social revolution. We are being given a choice—to fight with Russia for her liberation and for our survival and to mean business. Otherwise Russia will fight for her own liberation, and let us take care of ourselves.

Britain draws the consequences of a grand strategy, we are offered the whole clique who have still had a hold on the door—from the Archbishop of Canterbury down. Britain

psychological warfare. Stalin asserts that he is not afraid of the German masses, and does not desire to destroy Germany as a state or as a people. He therefore brings the greatest menace to Germany, while, at the same time, he offers the greatest hope. And in political warfare, therefore, no less than in military, the Russians alone have conducted a grand strategy. We are offered the whole clique who have still had a hold on the door—from the Archbishop of Canterbury down. Britain

Letters To The Editors: Asks Follow-Through On Jimison Series

Editor, The News: Your two series of articles concerning the State Hospital at Greensboro have been of great interest to me so I am sure they are to every other native of North Carolina. The question in my mind is: "What can be done to remedy conditions?" Certainly we should not dismiss these reports with a pitying, "Isn't it a shame?"

If The News could sponsor a program showing the people of the State what they are doing, I believe the response would be gratifying. "Unfortunately," I have a practical plan to suggest, but I should be very glad to have a part in any crusade that may be launched. Most of my professional life has been spent nursing the psychical and mental diseases treated in the State Hospital. I am a doctor, but I am not a public relations man. I am a doctor, but I am not a public relations man. I am a doctor, but I am not a public relations man.

What I am suggesting is that you should have a series of articles on the conditions of the State Hospital. I am a doctor, but I am not a public relations man. I am a doctor, but I am not a public relations man. I am a doctor, but I am not a public relations man.

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