# THE CHARLOTTE NEWS

*And Evening Chronicle*

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● W. C. Dowd, 1855-1927 ●

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TUESDAY, MARCH 24, 1942


## *Expedients*

### *U-Boat Depredations Go On At an Alarming Rate*

The ghastly toll which Axis submarines are taking of Atlantic coastwise shipping—a ship or two every day or two—shows beyond doubt that counter measures put into effect so far by Army and Navy commands are inadequate. It may be, assuredly, that the job of policing off-shore sea lanes against the lurking submarine simply can't be done effectively. The nature and size of the task, not to mention the score against us, testify to the fact that it is not being done effectively.

To an amateur strategist two expedients suggest themselves. One has to do with an alternative, make-shift route. From Maine to Florida runs the Inland Waterway, a protected channel on which ply small boats, mostly pleasure craft with some commercial vessels of not more than six or seven feet draught. Thousands of these small boats, along with their skippers, would probably be at the Government's disposal for the mere request, and while they could not carry so few a great deal of freight individually, in the aggregate they might relieve a number of ocean-going vessels for service elsewhere and frustrate the U-boats.

The other expedient has to do with air patrols over the coast. The Army and Navy, pressed for planes and pilots, probably have their hands full. But in the United States are thousands of private fliers with airworthy planes, men over age or otherwise not available for combat service, who would like nothing better than to take over whatever part of the patrolling job they could handle. They might spot a few subs, too, or merely by their presence cause them to be less brazen.

## *Forced Decision*

### *Nation's Choice Is Between Justice and Production*

It is, perhaps, just as well that no leader of organized labor has undertaken to answer the Assistant Attorney General's indictment of union practices before the House Judiciary Committee. It would be a case of paying too dear for one's whistle. Mr. Arnold's accusations are easily documented from the public record. These misdeeds, moreover, are well known to anyone with the ability and inclination to read. And no doubt remedial measures would have been taken long ago had not the idea prevailed that these were unavoidable "growing pains."

Thurman Arnold accuses the unions of:

1. Exploiting the farmers;
2. Impeding transportation;
3. Restricting the efficient use of men and machines in production for war and home consumption;
4. Refusing to allow the production of cheap houses by mass-production methods;
5. Forcing employers men to employ useless labor;
6. Undemocratic procedures within the unions themselves.

"No other group in society could get away with such high-handed behavior," Arnold concluded.

It would be unfair for Arnold or anyone else, to accuse all labor union officials of abusing their privileges. But it would be equally unjust to claim that these abuses are negligible, or to deny that they are dragging heavily against the war effort and against the true progress of the whole labor movement.

Never, since the days of the great predatory corporations which the "robber barons" of finance raped a hapless public at will have the wielders of concentrated private power, sitting on the neck of a subservient Government, had such a field day. Rapacious old Jay Gould would turn green with envy at a labor boss who could virtually tell the Government to place war industries in areas where his union was strong. Commodore Vanderbilt, no piker when it came to throwing his weight around, would shudder at the sight of a shipyard worker forced to buy three, four, or five separate union cards before he could take up his torch.

Members of any fair-minded grand jury would find Arnold's indictment a true bill, but they might well question its timing. As we see it, it boils down to a choice between justice and production. It would be almost impossible to correct labor's abuses without antagonizing labor. To antagonize labor means the inevitable retarding of production. It would avail us little to remedy domestic injustice if by doing so we lost the war.

Arnold's accusations were just as true five years ago as they are today. He should have made them and the Administration should have acted upon them then. Goodness knows there was enough public discussion of them.

But even if it is too late to go after the evils of injustice, it is not too late to prune new growth. Government's responsibility now is to see that union officials do not make use of the war emergency to extend monopolistic or racketeering activities. After the war, it will be time enough to examine the unions, one by one, and determine if they are being operated for the benefit of their memberships and for society in general. But first—the war.

## *Paradox*

### *Down With War Profiteering, Says Everyone—But How?*

In the decade that followed the World War (Part I), the United States, between American Legion conventions and disarmament conferences, began to take stock of what had happened. And people began to comprehend what they had wondered about all along—that while thousands of men were crawling on their bellies in the mud, other thousands quietly remained at home and prospered.

The wave of revulsion at these war fortunes would have seemed almost genuine to a foreigner, but the resentment was tempered by that half-secret admiration with which Americans automatically regard wealth, whether it be obtained by honest toil or by "shrewd business."

At any rate, the United States went into this second installment of the World War with high resolve. If there was anything upon which labor, capital, farmers and the Administration agreed, it was that this time we would take the profit out of war. This time there would be no war fortunes, no war millionaires.

Well, we have been at war for almost four months now. What of the profiteers?

> A company was organized in 1940 to manufacture airplane engine starters. In less than two years it was able to (1) make a profit of 100 per cent on a Navy order, (2) pay three officials a total of $145,000 in salaries for twelve months of work, pay an ex-Army officer a $17,000 bonus after six weeks' employment. Not bad, eh—you guys in Iceland.

There are people who say, "Aw, let 'em make it. The Government will get it back in taxes." These are the people, who have to pay taxes according to the book, who have never been able to afford a private tax consultant.

The only way to cut out excessive war profits—and we hold that all profit due to the war is excessive—is to withhold the profits in the first place.

Yet, to date, we have not heard of a single, satisfactory device whereby such excessive gain could be prevented. Several experts, including Secretary Morgenthau, have mentioned six per cent. But then one asks, six per cent of what? That idea never got to first base.

It is the great paradox of the war. Everybody is against war profits, but nobody seems to know how to prevent them. It is enough to make one wonder whether this people is as sincere as it would seem, whether the man who condemns war profits is not thinking more of regulating his neighbor than of depriving himself of his American heritage to make all the money he can.

## *War Relief*

### *Rotarians Offer a Show and A Benefit for Single Price*

A vote of thanks from the community best signalized by patronage, is due the Rotary Club for undertaking to raise $1,000 to buy medical equipment for the emergency stations to be set up under Civilian Defense. The method decided upon is almost painless in that it extracts money in small well, moderate amounts from individuals, and compensates them with an evening of extraordinary entertainment. In short, a show.

"Hooray America" is the title of the extravaganza which will be put on this evening and Wednesday evening at Piedmont Junior High. Its cast of 175 persons has been hard at work for weeks on the dance and dialogue routines which, with plotting rapidity, will follow one another behind the footlights.

There is a good bit of work to an amateur show, both for the promoters and the participants, but there is a good bit of fun to be had out of it too. And if, in addition to that, the people of the city wake to find themselves magically supplied with life-saving equipment, why, that's a genuine service.

# New Odds On Draft

*By Paul Mallon*

WASHINGTON

ALL during this war, the Jap radio propagandists have tactfully ignored the Russians sitting on their back porch in Asia. Last week, they opened up on the Reds, cuffing them around verbally every hour on the hour for no apparent new reason. In the normal course of Axis antics, this means the Reds are scheduled for Jap attention next.

An invasion on the Amur River line to cut off Vladivostok has long been in the Jap military cards. Whether it is to be timed with a Hitler Spring offensive on the West Russian Front is now the live question. Also some sea action against Pacific shipping into Vladivostok might be taken.

At least, the Jap radio attention to the Commies has sounded an alert here concerning coming events in the northwestern Pacific.

Confusing conflicts have occurred in published official advice about your chances in the draft.

War Secretary Stimson, for instance, said something about taking left of the latest registrants for every one from the previous lists, but obviously did not mean this. No one seems to know what he did mean. That arithmetic does not fit into any known draft calculations.

**3,600,000 MEN BY DECEMBER 31**

Immediate plan is to raise an army of 3,600,000 men by the end of this year. So the Government intends to call 1,000,000 more men in the next nine months.

Half of these are to be taken from the old registration lists, half from the new one for which the lottery was held last week.

**The first 850,000, who are to come from the old lists, will be chosen through reclassifications in that list. The reclassification will probably result in calling all from 1-A down to 3-A married but with wife working. Also the men who became 21 last year are likely to go before the middle of the year.**

The second 850,000 will be obtained from those who were drawn last Wednesday. The 20-21-year-olds will certainly go. Frankly, the Army does not want the older men very much (from 37 to 44) but will call them up mainly to replace soldiers doing desk work, and for officer training. If there is a shortage of officers, the Army will, for instance, ask 50,000 (a guessed figure) be called up and sent to training camp. If you are 37 to 44 the chance (second) you being called this year is about ten to one.

**NEXT YEAR'S QUOTAS DEPEND ON WHAT HAPPENS**

What will be done next year and thereafter depends much on what happens this Spring in Russia and elsewhere. If the Army is to be raised to 5,000,000 or 10,000,000 then nearly all the able-bodied available non-defense workers will be eventually picked from the 26,000,000 persons who have registered this fall (17,000,000 originally and 9,000,000 additional last week).

**Talk about labor leaders, radio-movie actors and newspaper men being exempt, does not mean much except for labor leaders. It is all up to your local draft board, and no doubt the boards will differ widely in their rulings on individual cases.**

Draft General Hershey wrote a letter to all state draft directors urging exemption of labor leaders as well as management. Taking men with labor in order to keep "harmonious relations" on the production front. That was not an order, but it will be binding. As for radio-movie actors, Hershey merely wrote a letter to a California director and other directors asking Lowell Mellett, the Administration movie director, considered the industry as a war essential. This is not yet to be binding. Where the newspaper men get into this select group, nobody knows. Hershey said something about it being a war essential at a press conference, and of course the press as a whole is essential. Newspapers cannot be abandoned, but each draft board will decide for itself whether particular individuals in the industry are indispensable.

**NOBODY SEEMS TO KNOW ABOUT NEW DRAFT**

As for the new 45 to 64 draft, no one seems to know anything for sure. Mr. Roosevelt said General Hershey ought to know, and the General said he did not. A jurisdictional dispute as to who is to handle this draft of older men for industry cut for the Army has long been going on between Labor Adviser Hillman, Social Security Paul McNutt and Labor Secretary Perkins. They have been getting together, then falling apart on the matter for some time, and exact information apparently must wait until they have been co-ordinated or suppressed.

### *Moral: Know Your Candidates*

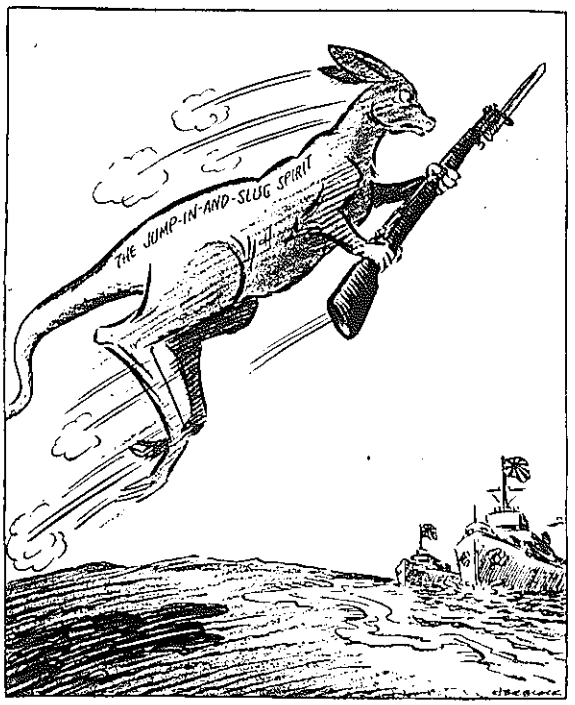
**The Milwaukee Journal**

Many voters of Block Four in the Fifteenth Precinct of the Fourteenth Ward are red in the face over discovering that they recently voted an air-raid warden a man who was treasurer of the pro-Nazi German-American Citizens' Alliance.

The attitude of a good many of the voters is pretty well expressed by one who said, when he learned for whom he had voted, "Well, that's a fine one. If I had known that, I surely wouldn't have voted for him."

*Australia*

*—By Herblock*




## *Letters to the Editors:*

# Puts Blame On "Profiteers"

Editors, THE NEWS:

Who are these "people back home" who are crying so loud that we are doomed unless the manufacturers are permitted to work us over 40 hours per week without paying us time and a half. You would have us believe that a majority of the people of this country would welcome legislation to repeal the so-called 40-hour work week law. If the truth were known we would find that your editorial policy voices the opinion of only a very small minority of the people. I think your motive is an entirely selfish one. You are not half as interested in the increased production of war materials as you pretend to be. Is it not because you have to pay your employees time and a half for the overtime they work?

Are you engaged in defense work? No. Nor do I believe the others are who are raising their voices so loud over this question. I think their motives are just as selfish and unpatriotic as yours, that this group is comprised of business men and manufacturers who want to profiteer from the war effort further by the exploitation of labor.

In fact we have no 40-hour work week. We are only compensated for the hours worked over that number. If this is delaying the war effort I should like to know just how it is doing so. I know of no plant or factory that is not running 24 hours per day, six and seven days per week. Just how would elimination of the time and a half compensation help when the plants and factories are running so near full capacity now? I think the whole scheme lies in the fact that there is a slight shortage of labor at this time (the first since the last war) and the manufacturers want to run two shifts instead of three so as to create a surplus of labor so they can cut wages down to suit themselves. Remember the axiom, "Supply and demand control prices"? Luckily for us there is a slight labor shortage at this time and I trust that through some miracle (not war) there shall always be so long as we have the same economic system we now have.

Inflation? You would have us believe that decent wages for labor is the only thing that can cause inflation. Is our economic system so weak and rotten it cannot pay decent wages without causing inflation? The trouble is we have too much class distinction and very distorted ideas as to each class's relative worth to each other. The so-called upper and middle classes have always looked upon the laboring class as a problem to be tolerated or ignored until some crisis arose and then they should be drafted into serfdom. The laboring class is just as important to the well being of our civilization as any other class and should be justly compensated with decent wages and working conditions for their services. If these upper classes had the sense of a flock of geese they would realize they would be utterly helpless without labor. Perhaps they realize our worth more than we think. Maybe that is the reason they want to keep us poverty-stricken so we can be controlled and forced to accept any kind of wages and working conditions.

Perhaps the time and a half compensation does increase taxes some but doesn't the laboring man pay more than his share of the tax burden? If the business man or manufacturer is taxed he increases the prices of his merchandise and the working man eventually pays it all anyway. However, if it is necessary to suspend the time and a half compensation to lighten the tax burden why not suspend it in defense industries only? How would that suit you? That wouldn't be fair, would it? If you are as sincere as you pretend to be why don't you advocate legislation to this effect.

I wish it to be understood that I am affiliated with no labor union, nor am I a Red or member of the Communist Party. I do not advocate "social" equality. That I could not stand. That would be nauseating. I am just as patriotic as any American and am willing and anxious to make any effort or sacrifice to help win this war but I am sick and tired of labor being pushed around by a horde of would-be parasitic profiteering racketeers who claim to voice the opinion of the "people".

As for the soldiers at Bataan and elsewhere risking their lives, increase their pay, they deserve it. Labor at home will bear the expenses, through indirect taxation just the same as we pay all other Government expenditures and we shall be the last ones to squawk.

—D. J. GILMORE

146 Hawthorne Street,
Belmont.

### Takes Issue With Ripley's Assertions

Editors, THE NEWS:

It is a crime how some writers, called columnists, get pay for putting over a lot of bunk on an unsuspecting public. Recently the "Believe It Or Not" writer, Ripley, got this across: "December 25th was celebrated as the birthday of a God by five different nations thousands of years before Christ." The insinuation being that Jesus Christ was a pretender and not what the Christian world professes to believe He was. I have waited patiently for some man of the cloth to undertake to refute this assertion by Ripley. It may be there is some truth in it and it may be the drivers of the gospel wagon, like the heathens, do not really know much about it when it comes down to tacks.

This writer does not undertake anything he doesn't think he can do, so will pass up Buddha, of the Chinese; Nolagh, of the Druids; Horus, of the Egyptians; Mithras, of the Persians; Sol Invicta, of the Romans, and Christ.

Some time ago Ripley took occasion to show the American eagle is a coward. A few months after he made that effort an Associated Press story told of an American eagle charging an airplane. Dived on, that came too near the great bird's nest, and fought it to the death. Surely a cowardly bird could not have done that. This writer's personal opinion is there is about as much truth in some of Ripley's stuff as there was in Dale Carnegie's tale about "old Wash Duke" establishing the Duke University, at Durham, and shooting grouse in Scotland. But, go ahead Rip. According to an intimation in Holy Writ itself there are people a plenty who would rather believe a lie than the truth, and pay for it to boot.

—LOUIS PHILLIPS.

Bear Creek.

### *Yeah, but On What?*

**The Zebulon Record**

An egg brought into The Record office last Friday by Preston Chamblee was unusual as to size, shape and shell. It measured nearly five and one-half inches by one and one-fourth inches, was much larger at one end than the other and had a soft shell. Asked to make loose folds, Mr. Chamblee said it was laid by a White Jersey Giant hen. She must have had her mind on something else at the time.

## Side Glances

"His wife would never let him out at night until he got to be an air raid warden."

# Trifling Quarrel

*By Dorothy Thompson*

NEW YORK

A quarrel in our ranks at this moment sets the teeth on edge. I refer, of course, to the quarrel of Mr. John Curtin, Prime Minister of Australia, with Winston Churchill. And it is difficult to see just why Mr. Curtin chose to publicize it in quite so flamboyant a manner. In this quarrel, unfortunately, America has a role. For the quarrel is over the fact that the Australian envoy in Washington, Mr. Richard G. Casey, has been appointed by Churchill to a seat in the British War Cabinet. Mr. Curtin, who opposed the shift, thinks that Mr. Casey's post in Washington is more important than a seat in the central British War Cabinet.

**PERSONAL AND PARTISAN NOTE INTRODUCED**

Also, Mr. Curtin has introduced a personal and partisan note into the matter, making the quarrel appear as one between a labor-leader Prime Minister and a "Tory" Prime Minister of Britain.

**To cover Sir Stafford Cripps' momentous mission to India, Raymond Clapper has flown from Cairo to Calcutta. His first dispatch from the capital of this all-important subcontinent will appear in this column tomorrow.—Editors, THE NEWS.**

**On this point it should be said that Mr. Churchill has disregarded partisanship in the appointment of his Government; that some of the most important posts in his Cabinet are held by Labor Party men; that Sir Stafford Cripps, who has been made second in the Cabinet only to Mr. Churchill and intrusted with a most important mission to India, certainly is no "Tory" but is a little to the left of the majority Labor Party.**

Actually, Mr. Churchill, like President Roosevelt, has had the instinct to put himself above partisanship.

Unfortunately, the same cannot be said of Mr. Curtin. Mr. Curtin has a majority of just one in his Parliament, and yet he has never extended his Cabinet to include his opponents.

**WHOLE CLAMOR SEEMS TO BE SMALL POTATOES**

There is another question of principle involved. It appears that Mr. Churchill approached Mr. Casey directly, securing his consent, instead of asking the Australian Government to appoint a member to the British War Cabinet. Mr. Curtin thinks that he should have had the sole selection of the member.

Normally, this would no doubt have been the proper protocol. But it is extremely important that the man selected should be one with whom the British Cabinet is certain it can co-operate. And in war the responsible leader must act, and not spend his time and his energies in negotiations of minor importance. So, on the whole, Mr. Curtin's clamor seems pretty small potatoes.

Mr. Curtin seems to fear that Britain, off the northwest coast of Europe, is more interested in European affairs than in the Pacific and is concentrating on defending herself first.

**MIDDLE EAST DEFENSE IS DEFENSE OF AUSTRALIA**

Or, Mr. Curtin seems to fear that Britain by sending Mr. Casey as a member of the British War Cabinet to Cairo, has in mind to forestall the junction of Japan and Germany in the Middle East. And all this seems to be less important than the immediate defense of Australia. Actually, it is all part of the defense of Australia, as the defense of Australia is part of the total war.

For our immediate and long range interests are involved. Our relations with Australia are established on the strongest possible basis through the sending of General MacArthur there, and our relations are, for the duration, primarily military.

So the sooner this quarrel is abandoned, the better it will be for everybody concerned.

## Visitin' Around

**Flash!**

(Curtis Wilkesboro Hustler)

The gasoline station south of the Yadkin bridge at the Forks and edge of the Brannson farm, Midway Station, which has been operated the past two years by John Pearson, is closed out. It closed a few weeks ago.

**And That, Children, Was Where Papa Blew A Mean Slide Trombone**

(Twenty Years Ago, Lexington Dispatch)

Bandstand, another familiar sight in city, is torn down in courthouse square.

**Good As New**

(Sheffield Rem, Davie Record)

J. L. Richardson, who has been laid up for repairs, is able to be out again.