

THE CHARLOTTE NEWS

And Evening Chronicle

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THURSDAY, MAY 7, 1942

Supportable

School Board's Actions Warrant No Great Protest

We have shied away from making any comment on the City School Board's dismissal last week of the positions of Director of Physical Education, and its action in appointing a new Director of Physical Education. We've said nothing but it editorially for the good reason that we didn't know what to say. Since the board's action, a fair-sized comment has developed, an aftermath which we have been egged on somewhat by the newspaper's headline description of the incident as an "axing." Investigation convinces us that the board's intentions are not on so petty a plane. In Mr. Sides' case, the decision to abolish the position and distribute its duties seems to have been made without any reflection upon the Director of Physical Education and primarily in consideration of having applied for a commission in Naval Reserve.

As for the Director of Music, the move was intended, we perceive it, to restore undivided authority over Central High School to its principal and the City School Superintendent. Mr. Sides, while admittedly an able band leader, is likewise a pretty offbeat person. In his capacity as Director of Music it is likely that he would have been an independent factor in the school system, and, in addition, a liability to no one and primarily a liability of the Central High band rather than of music in the schools as a whole.

Some day, perhaps, the President will try again. One thing seems pretty certain: the war effort cannot be aided by such pettiness indefinitely and have any chance of success.

Union Manifesto

It Underlines a Contrast In Democratic Circles

War Blight

North Carolina Suffers Under Army-Navy Purchasing System

North Carolina there are more than 200 machine shops that could be working on Government contracts or contracts. Not more than a dozen participating in the war effort.

North Carolina, scores of executives in the smaller cotton mills are wondering how many workers they will be to lay off, now that they have converted 60 per cent of their looms to the production of war cloths. They are anxious to make canvas, oilskins and other things but they have had an opportunity ever to bid on Government contracts.

North Carolina last week a bicker between the eastern part of the state found an aid on a certain type of container delivery to the Government in North Carolina. The freight rate from the plant (and it is not far from the Virginia line) was again as high as the rate from New York to Norfolk.

North Carolina, officials of a great company offered to make a certain part for a vital implement of war. Their extensive machine shop, two permanent inspectors approved the preliminary delay and beating around the bush, the officials were forced to concede that the Army had no intention of buying them in the order. They abandoned the plan in disgust.

One thriving North Carolina city has several small machine shops pooled their resources and asked to bid on Army contracts. They, too, got encouragement—none.

In New York, Chicago and other Northern political centers, the Democratic Party is less squeamish. Up there, the Negro vote is a bulwark of New Deal strength; indeed it is often the margin of a Democratic victory. Democratic bosses would sooner come out for a ten-cent subway fare than alienate the Negro vote.

The contrast between these two methods of dealing with the Negro is not a particularly pleasant one, nor does it flatter either Southern or Northern Democrats.

"Two hams," says a cable, "caused a riot in Milan." Don't tell us Abbott and Costello are rolling them in the aisles over there.

Among birthday gifts to the Fuehrer was a globe, dated 1930, showing neither America. In the Middle Ages, to which he is reverting, he can afford to ignore us.

Pulitzer Prize Winner...



With the self-explanatory cartoon captioned "British Plane" at right, Herbert Lawrence Block (above), professionally known as "Herblock," won the 1941 Pulitzer Prize. Herblock's prize-winning panel appeared on March 7, 1941. His cartoons appear daily on the editorial page of The News.

What Reds Told Japan

By Paul Mallon

WASHINGTON. RUSSIAN diplomacy seems to have been by far the cleverest so far developed in the war, and it is not surprising that what the Russians have believed to be unquestionable authority that Stalin told the Japanese before Pearl Harbor, he would remain neutral if the Japanese attacked the United States. He also told the Tokyo Government that if Japan attacked Russia, the United States would attack Japan.

By this smart maneuver and otherwise, the Red leader had avoided conflict with his natural enemy on the second front in Asia. He has created a situation you would not believe, if it were not obvious before your eyes.

RUSSIA IS FIGHTING THE WAR FOR RUSSIA

We are warring with Russia against Germany and without Russia against Japan. Russia, our close ally, is receiving substantial quantities of war materials from us, is not using them against our enemy in the Pacific.

Not only that, but Stalin has not allowed American military missions to survey bases in Siberia from which we could bomb Japan. Consequently, we do not seem to stand a chance of getting those very important bases until Stalin believes Japan is ready to attack him.

Russia, realistic as always, is fighting this war for Russia, and thereby setting a good example for the United States, and especially for the little group of lovers of humanity here who live in clouds of idealism and expect others to do likewise.

SHIPPING LAGS BEHIND PRODUCTION

The battle of production has been won. Few commodities are issued from that necessary agent from, but it is safe to say that boats, and plane production are running ahead of schedule.

In fact, everything is ahead except shipping. In some instances material has been piled up from tanks to the shipyards in order to stimulate the lagging pace.

The deficiency in restricted to merchant ships. War vessels are far ahead of expectations. Admiral Land has laid the blame on several factors, shortage of steel, both labor and management troubles, and the fact that the program started late.

Thus, while we are demonstrating what the old Democratic capitalist system of production can do in an emergency, we are unable to keep these materials flowing to the far flung battle fronts of the world at a commensurate pace.

MISSIONARIES HELPED PLAN BOMBING OF JAPAN

Monks and missionaries have from Japan helped this Government with plans for bombing Japan's industrial centers. The missionaries know where everything is located there, steel mills, foundries, oil refineries.

Similar information on both Germany and Japan is being gathered up quickly by the board of economic warfare.

Engineers and business men who have done contract work in Europe and the Far East are being consulted, particularly those who worked on Rumanian oil wells, electric power plants, mills and foundries.

The European information is being passed on to the RAF.

TODAY'S BIBLE THOUGHT

Life is indestructible, but one may lose the dignity of a clean soul: Whosoever shall lose his life for my sake and the gospel, the same shall save it.—Mark 8:35.



Whom Inflation Destroys

By Dorothy Thompson

I HAVE waited some days to comment on the seven points advanced by the President as preventive measures against inflation, and to raise a few questions in regard to them.

Runaway inflation is a catastrophe that not only destroys the economic life but undermines the social and political stability of a nation and destroys the fabric of its social integration.

The disintegration of Germany society was the result of the great inflation of 1923. The consequences of that inflation were different on different classes. Industrial workers suffered but when it was over they were exactly where they had been when it started—they had lost nothing because they had had nothing to lose.

INDUSTRIAL TYCOONS BENEFITED ENORMOUSLY

The great industrialists had a Roman holiday out of it. They used loans to enlarge their plants, and repaid them in paper. The result was an enormous transfer of the people's wealth into a few money-olitic hands.

What happened to the middle classes? Those in salaried positions, school teachers, civil servants, minor executives, white-collar workers as a whole, and small owners, manufacturers, independent farmers, shopkeepers, and the relatively small group living from rents and securities?

The incomes of these people were never vastly greater than those of the better paid workers. But part of these incomes had been regularly invested, in insurance, in bonds, in business reserves and as a backlog against a rainy day. Economically speaking, this meant that their incomes, was the difference between them and the workers.

The inflation put them in a worse position than the workers because they lost the results of their thrift, and they had lost organized power as a pressure group.

The political effect of this was to destroy Democracy. For everywhere in the world the middle classes are the basis of Democracy, provided they are friendly to the workers. The political effect was to turn friendship into hostility, and create the class basis of the Hitler movement, which, economically speaking, is the radicalism of a dispossessed middle class caught between exploiting monopolists and workers.



in rows on rows—with lawns and window boxes in front, vegetable patches in the rear, and velocipedes on the sidewalk—that are the peculiar aspect of our American scene.

THIS CLASS MUST BE RESCUED—OR ELSE

Now, the authors of the anti-inflation program, if they are wise, must think about these people; they must rescue this class. And they must ask themselves a question: In the equalization of sacrifice, which all honest men must agree is both necessary and desirable, which way of life should we choose to preserve and promote? Should the middle classes accept the way of life of the workers, or should we consciously use the war to end the "proletariat" in this country, and lift them into the class of these middle classes?

This is not a question of income. It is a question of how income is used.

Anti-inflation measures can either proletarianize the middle class, with fatal results for the stability of the nation, or they can do just the opposite.

WORKERS NEVER HAD CHANCE TO LEARN THRIFT, PLANNING

The way of life of the workers is not the way of life of the middle classes. But for that the lack of status among workers is to blame, as well as the economic ideas that have motivated the American commercial system. Workers have been forced to live from day to day and from hand to mouth, sometimes well, sometimes badly, but never under circumstances conducive to family planning or saving.

The result is that when their incomes become enormously augmented, without the tradition of saving to offset them, the workers' spending habits create inflation. No measures against inflation will work unless saving habits can be created among the workers—or their incomes depressed. And no one wants the latter.

I shall discuss this further, for it lies at the very basis of American Democracy.

between the classes is greater, and there is less prejudice against manual toil here than in Europe.

The American middle class is the solid, the backbone, the backbone of the nation, the backbone of the nation, the backbone of the nation. They are the most intelligent group in America. Those Americans with incomes between \$2,000 and \$10,000 a year are the most intelligent group. They furnish practically all the names that eventually get into Who's Who. They are not above the struggles of life; they are not above the struggles of life; they are not above the struggles of life.

They buy nearly all the books that are sold; they are enormous sacrifices for the education of their children; they join the Parents' Teachers Associations and sit on the school boards.

They live on budgets. They are the most careful buyers in America. They have the sense of quality that reckons other things than price in everything they buy.

They are the supporters of every progressive movement. They are the bulk of contributors to the Red Cross and the Community Chests.

Their are the "neat little houses"

Side Glances



"MIDDLE" PEOPLE MAKE THE CULTURE OF AMERICA

An anti-inflation program, if it works, is a protection for the class and for the whole of society. And this is more so in America than in any other country on earth. For these "middle" people make the peculiar culture and life of America, and in this country they are less "petit bourgeois" than anywhere else. The fluidity

YOUR WARTIME QUESTION

Is there a Pay-Roll Savings Plan operating in your office, factory, or store?

If not—help start one now! That's the way to invest in U. S. War Savings Bonds and Stamps every pay day until Victory is won.

Tell your department head or foreman you'd like to enroll in a Pay-Roll Savings Plan.

Nehru's Futility

By Raymond Clapper

WASHINGTON. WHEN the India Congress Party decided over the week-end to refuse to offer forcible resistance to the Japanese, which meant that the Congress Party was to be on the way, the full force of what Pandit Nehru said to me in Allahabad came back.

At the time it seemed disturbing enough, but I was inclined to discount it a little as bargaining talk on the eve of the Cripps negotiations. Now, however, it looks good, as I suggested in dispatches. At the time, yet I thought possibly that when the showdown came the Congress leaders would rise to the occasion. They have not.

OLD GRIEVANCES OBSESSED NEHRU

Nehru was obsessed with past trouble with the British. He said the bad history of that relationship must be remembered, and that the effects of it could not be overcome by one stroke overnight. His words were prophetic, for Cripps could not overcome it and the present menace of Japanese invasion is not overcoming it.

It is not that Nehru is pro-Japanese—or Gandhi either—even though the effect of their actions now is the same as if they were pro-Japanese. Nehru said that the Congress Party had condemned Fascism years ago when the British were playing with it—the Congress Party condemned Fascism in Ethiopia and Spain and denounced Hitler's seizure of Czechoslovakia.

HATRED OF BRITISH MINIMIZES JAP MENACE

Two elements enter into the present decision not to present armed resistance to Japan. One is the intense anti-British feeling. By reflex action it tends to welcome any event that will shake the British hold on India. That feeling is so strong that it causes people to minimize the Japanese menace. They don't know the story of Korea and the brutality practiced in China, except as atrocity stories which they are inclined to discount. When you have been in prison for generations, I suppose you are not much interested in the kind of fellow who throws a rope to you over the wall.

A second element is the embedded doctrine of peaceful resistance, which Gandhi has made the core of his resistance to British rule. Nehru was careful to explain that peaceful resistance is not the same as passive resistance. Peaceful resistance is active resistance but not with the use of force.

For instance, to use his illustration, if the Japanese invaders should demand food, the Hindus would refuse to give it to them. They might be shot for it and undoubtedly would be willing to be shot. They have refused to obey British orders when it meant beating or imprisonment.

Nehru says military resistance is futile for a weak country like India. He makes the point that, if you are a weak country and attempt military resistance, when the resistance is overcome that is the end of the struggle, whereas with peaceful resistance there is never any final showdown and end to it.

BRITISH, TOO, TRIED PEACEFUL RESISTANCE

That sounded like hair-splitting to me. It smacked of rationalization. But it is typical of the metaphysical twistings that dominate Hindu thinking and determine Hindu conduct in face of a crisis.

But how strange a misreading of recent history it is! Did not the British pursue a policy of peaceful resistance to Hitler in the days before Poland was attacked? Did not the French try peaceful resistance to Japan? The Dutch tried peaceful resistance in refusing to sell Japan as much oil as she demanded. The Chinese found out long ago that peaceful resistance only invited more aggression.

Every day of this war demonstrates the futility of anything except superior force in dealing with the Axis aggressors. But the Hindus won't learn it until too late. And in the end they will be saved only because the United Nations will bring enough force to bear to crush Japan.

Visitin' Around

How to Make a Subscriber Shudder

(North Wilkesboro Resident)

Mr. and Mrs. William Harris and sons Eugene from vicinity of Mooresville and Miss Jessie Query, of Huntersville, were here Sunday afternoon, March 22, during the funeral of Mrs. Tevapham, and visited Mrs. L. M. and W. E. Pharr. Mr. Will Query recently was seriously ill a few days at the home of his brother.

Eligible Pass-Recorder (Adv. Waynesville Mountaineer)

LOST—Between high school and Love Lane, gold rimmed spectacles, in black case. Phone 280-W.