

THE CHARLOTTE NEWS

And Evening Chronicle

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W. C. Dowd, 1885-1927

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FRIDAY, AUGUST 14, 1942

Funny Things

They Don't Make Sense but They Are the Law

Here's a funny thing. The War Labor Board arbitrated wage agreements between the Citizens Cable Corp. and the representative of its employees, the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (AFL). What would have happened if the decision had gone against the company and it had refused to abide by it? Why, the Government would have taken the plant away from its management.

Actually the decision went against employees, and they refused to abide by it. And what happened? Why, Government snatched the plant away from its management. Did it fire the workers? Nope.

Here's another funny thing. The employees of the plant had this union, the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, to represent them, to get them what they wanted, so to speak. But when they were denied what they wanted by the union's decision, did they let the union act for them? Nope. They went ahead and struck, and damn well worked side by side. The North Carolina Federation had no such circumstances to consider, nor, as far as we know, was urged on by insistence from any quarter.

Its action appears, on the contrary, to have been taken simply because of a belief that Negro union-members were entitled to recognition—that and with regard for the stated policies of President Roosevelt against racial discrimination in industry. It will have no effect on union practices, since the State Federation is only a loosely-organized association of unions, but it will undoubtedly serve to pose the question in such a way that unions will feel called upon to answer it—possibly, in view of this precedent, in the affirmative.

We are of two minds whether that will be desirable or undesirable. But for itself alone the State Federation's action appears to us as an expression of good will among all men.

For the Reds are beginning to worry 'em. Could be. In any event, there is an old and sophisticated axiom which fits the situation, and it is: *in case of doubt lead trump.*

Precedent

State Labor Body Breaks With Southern Practice

The State Federation of Labor's election of a Negro unionist as a vice-president, necessitating a prior change in its by-laws, is a surprising procedure. Heretofore the American Federation of Labor, a national body, has been anything but insistent that the unions under its wings, even those with memberships largely in Northern states, should open their rolls to Negroes. It was too politic to suggest to unions with large Southern representation that they do anything of the kind.

The question of admitting Negroes has been left largely to the individual unions, which are autonomous and have the final decision. Most of them have decided against it from time to time, even in crafts where whites and Negroes worked side by side. The North Carolina Federation had no such circumstances to consider, nor, as far as we know, was urged on by insistence from any quarter.

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Post Script

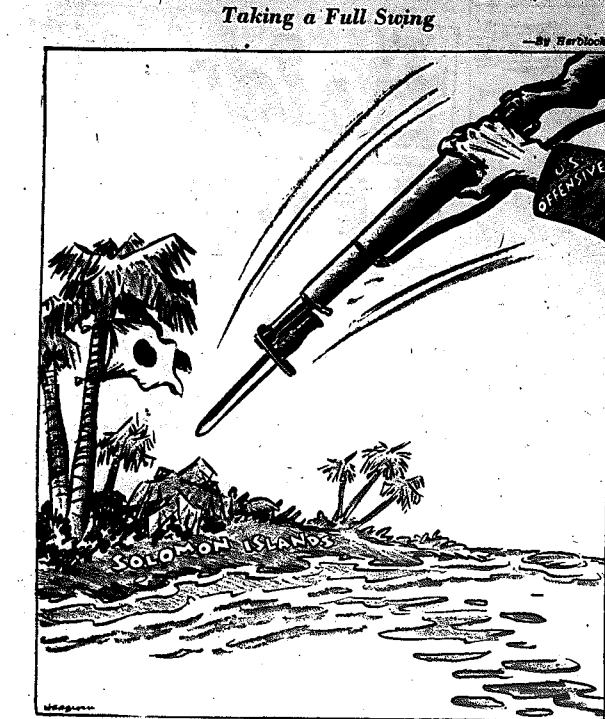
Pelley's Judge Embellishes The Jury's Verdict

In the case of the United States vs. William Dudley Pelley, the comment of Federal Judge Robert C. Baltzell was reassuring. In handing down a smacking fifteen-year sentence, the Judge announced for all to hear that Pelley was no man to be left at large in a country which was at war.

Criminal sedition was the charge against the proprietor of the misnamed Fellowship Press, and he was convicted of it in a fair trial. The Government established, evidently to the jury's satisfaction, that Pelley's line of harangue bore a startling resemblance to the gibberish that comes from Herr Doktor Goebbels in Berlin, and we are prepared to believe it.

We know, too, that Pelley has been playing around for long time with all sorts of fascist notions and that he is a common crook, who has been convicted in North Carolina for violation of the laws governing the sale of securities. We know that he is anti-Semitic, concealing his malevolent purposes in a series of organizations which are frequently Christian in name, anything but Christian in operation.

In short, William Dudley Pelley is a scoundrel. But he wasn't being tried on a charge of scoundrelism. The indictment read, criminal sedition. And a Government (meaning, specifically, an Administration) has had to put up with a lot from the crackpots and the pathological purveyors of political hatred that was to be watched, when war times give it extraordinary powers, lest it invoke the charge of sedition where simple heresy is indicated.



Slaves In Arms

The Axis Has The Edge

By Colonel Frederick Palmer

WONDER is often expressed as to where the Axis partners get all the man power and material for their extensive operations. Germany is a small spot on the world map, Japan still smaller.

Their resources seem pinched and meager compared with the immense spread and quality of those of the United Nations. Neither grows enough food for its own normal consumption. Nor does Italy.

Yet the Moscow communists continue to repeat that the Russian Army has to face overwhelming numbers. In spite of heavy losses, the Germans threw in reserves of troops, guns, tanks and planes which appear inexhaustible.

Japan's area of action stretches on the Pacific Ocean from the Aleutians, by way of Wake, some 5,000 miles to New Guinea. It stretches on the land side in Asia 4,000 miles from the Siberian border through China, to Burma, on Singapore, and along the borders of the Indian Ocean to Java and Timor.

How come? It does not make sense if you just look at the size of Germany, Japan and Italy on the map.

Platform Of The People

Chaplain Bare Says Farewell

Editors, THE NEWS: After sixteen months of service at Morris Field I have been transferred by the War Department to another place. Leaving here means good-by to a good job, friends I acquired in this friendly city, and time always difficult.

Wherever time finds me, or whatever the fortunes of war may bring, I shall always look back on the time spent here as one of the happiest periods of my life. I am deeply grateful, sir, to you and to the members of your staff for kindnesses extended to me while here, and for your assistance in my efforts to do a good job.

Please extend my thanks and appreciation to the Staff.

With kindest personal regards I am, Cordially yours, PAUL W. BARE, Major, Chaplain Corps, Morris Field.

Some Pungent Notes On "Associations"

Editors, THE NEWS: When there is an association, there are politicians, running for office or hoping to run again. So while thousands of traveling salesmen sit and dream of a good job in their tanks, the politician stands on a platform and in his mind transforms from a good job to a traveling salesman into so many thousands of good will to spreading the virtues of said politician.

Not Half Bad Big Job, Good Start

By Raymond Clapper

WASHINGTON—So many things are wrong with production that most people think the whole business is a complete failure, which I believe is a mistaken view.

We get no profit out of covering up failures. Utilization is the punishment which hangs over the head of every official who loses his chance. There are plenty of them.

The first place that you can get admission to is the War Production Administration. Everyone at WPB knows factories are closing down for lack of materials. They know more shutdowns will occur. Donald Nelson and his boss know this is their biggest problem. After six months of existence, WPB still has no effective control over inventories. Officials know that thousands of materials are stacked up in many plants for future use. The physical task of discovering them and releasing them for immediate use is simply an enormous one.

—Just about second to what the attempt to enforce prohibition was. War-Labor and Treasury Department field agents are being used. However the flow of materials needs tighter control. Nobody in the War Production Board doubts the need of it.

By the time these difficulties are licked new ones will have appeared. When you set out to change the whole industrial life of the country in such a short time, you are bound to get into a jam. As OWI said the other day, we have done pretty well, but not well enough. We are producing goods at three times the rate of last November. Our production of combat planes has fallen behind schedule but month before last we made more of them than any other nation. When President Roosevelt asked for 50,000 planes this year, we made 100,000. The fantastic goal set for shipping never has been met. We are making as in America today, we are producing of about 40 billion dollars worth of goods. The facilities were constructed with a view to a larger program, in some lines to fit a 60-billion-dollar program.

Nothing has ever been seen to match the industry that America is doing in the short time that has elapsed. One editor, weary of wholesale hysterical griping, writes this observation: "To be sure starting from scratch all too recently to do a preparatory job has been a great majority were too damned comfortable to undertake, there have been many mistakes, much bad judgment and too much political non-sensical business. But to me, the fact that a nation has been made on a colossal job. All too many have become too accustomed to Uncle Sam in a Santa Claus role. Let him turn Simon Legree and let us get on."

My own gripe is that the whole Government has not been tough enough. Donald Nelson and his men have not been ruthless enough. President Roosevelt knows our autumns are all over the country are going off the road in large numbers. Too many are being dropped out because they can't get there. Yet he is afraid to do what all his advisers working on the problem think must be done—clamp down on wasteful use of cars all over the country.

All of us wish the war job could be done perfectly. That certainly would be swell. But every one of us knows that it won't be perfect until we know all the things that are going to be done. We are in the face. The need, now particularly when the war in Europe is going against us and when the chances of the war lengthening are growing every day, is for balanced judgment. If we are doing, we can do ourselves harm by going into a tailspin of despair on the false assumption that we are not doing any kind of a job at all.

Fighting Generals

By Paul Mallon

WASHINGTON—Mr. Roosevelt's appointment list of 185 new generals (major and brigadier) may have meant no more to the public at large than reading a page from the telephone book, but to those who see the Army up close, it represented an inspiring prospect for fighting spirit and quality at the top and in the field.

No more than two or three names could cause fellow officers to ask themselves the usual question: "How in hell did he get up there?" The number of duds and dudettes assayed no higher than two or three per cent, which is a record. These new generals average somewhere around their middle forties in age, not as young as might be, but young enough. They are mostly to take fighting tank commands, new air-borne divisions, the Alpine Army Command, and some are now already overseas.

Their choice is a tribute to the Army's "efficiency reporting system." A few were plucked out for exceptional personality and ability without a record, but most were chosen because they had efficiency records.

Their choice is a definite answer to the popular prayer for aggressive leadership in the field.

CASUALTIES AND REVERSES ARE TO BE EXPECTED

The above-mentioned statement, telling the first news of our situation to the United States of America: The population of the Negro in the United States is about 13,000,000, about one-tenth of the population of the nation. Not one is to be found in or arrested for subversive activities or spying or betraying his country. And still his rights and privileges are limited.

We are only asking for a good living, equal opportunity, rights and privileges as American citizens. For we will have to put our house in order at home first before we can do a good job overseas. We must practice what we preach, as we are all fighting for one great cause: To make the world safe for justice and democracy.

Why not start at home as well as abroad? Buy stamps and bonds for Victory—V for Victory abroad, double V for Victory at home. CHARLOTTE. —W. C. ELLIOT, Editor.



"Yes, I've written another poem, and if you'll give me a word that rhymes with Sevastopol, I'm sure you'll love it and want to print it."