

THE CHARLOTTE NEWS

And Evening Chronicle

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THURSDAY, AUGUST 6, 1942

Citation

Morganton Committee Ends A Real Public Service

Some time next week, probably the full report and recommendations of the committee which investigated the State Hospital at Morganton, to be made public by him. That day is avidly awaited here at The News, where began the disclosures leading to the investigation, for the report represents the culmination of a major journalistic enterprise undertaken with high purpose.

While we are waiting for the jurors to file in and render their verdict, there is time to say a word about them, these members of the Governor's Commission. Indeed, the word had better be said now. Later, we may want to argue with them. These four men and one woman were assigned an utterly disagreeable task. They had had nothing more to do with the hospital at Morganton than any passer-by, and surely it must have been a strong sense of public responsibility that impelled them to accept the Governor's commission. Once they had agreed to do the job, however, they began to see how great was the job that they had to do, and they put their whole selves into it.

Judge Marshall Speers, Ward H. Wood, C. C. Clifford, Dr. Wingate Johnson, Mrs. E. J. McKee—lawyer, business newspaper publisher, doctor and practical woman—made up a group which was interesting in itself and far more interesting for the reactions of the individuals in the group to the story of the State Hospital. It was told to them in innumerable and sometimes incoherent installments. By all they listened patiently, almost with hands cupped to ears not to miss a word, and between times they read over the written record of what they had already heard, and searched over their minds, doubtless, for certainty of the midst of contradiction and for some reasonable, practicable, enduring solution to the complex problem which had been pitched into their laps.

What they have agreed at last, after all these months, we don't know. But we know, and it needs saying, that these four men and one woman, assisted more than competently by the counsel of Charles A. Hines, deserve from the people of North Carolina an accolade. They were a task of great magnitude and a responsibility which must have weighed heavily upon them. For the good and faithful manner in which they discharged it they are due a glowing citation.

Song Of India

Freedom Impossible in the World Battle for Freedom

Mother India, petulant and stubborn the face of peril, cannot be considered to be the major problem facing the United Nations; but she may be a symbol of all free nations as fighting states and a picture of a typical nation of the democracies tomorrow. The All-India Congress Party will make its formal demand: Take British power out of India and leave us free to fight for the Allies ourselves, or try a nation-wide but disobedience campaign.

But, as other peoples all over the world are sacrificing their freedom or being bound beneath new conquerors, the political fate of India must little concern the United Nations. Simply as a nation to be protected against Japanese advances, India is important today, not for considerations should be permitted to slow our progress in the East.

It is this another strange footnote to our struggle, that a populous 1,000,000,000 governed by a power fighting for

world-wide freedom, should be hampering the forward march of that power by demanding its own freedom.

It Bites Back

All Eating Dues for You Is Increasing Your Wages

The Billy Beason, which used to be a stand-by editorial subject until the war gave a grim countenance to silliness, may or may not be upon us again. But three of those little bills, always dangling out of the intricate maze of letters of Men might lead one to suspect that the idea of idling were passing our way. All of them, for better or what not, deal with food.

Having little interest in that prosaic field outside its own three squares daily, the editorial department went to work. A New York Heraldian, speaking, we assume, for the very young, announced that love and love-making aided the digestion, made for consumption of more and better food. A Baltimore biochemist (a woman, incidentally) fired back. Love, she retorted, had the soothing effect of a demolition bomb upon digestion. It brings stomach ache, because love's course is neither smooth nor soothing. (We got to eat, ain't we?)

A conscientious furlougher from New Jersey, seeking a job out from his work as a camp ditch-digger, fasted for 38 days, taking no nourishment but water. After trimming his weight from 173 to 129 pounds, he went back to work, still refusing to eat but not to die. Nutty, we call it.

At home, an editor went to luncheon at a restaurant, consumed a couple of slices of cold meat, a dab of potato salad and a little piece of lemon pie—and paid 65 cents for the meal. What's this, he screamed at the cashier: inflation?

It brought us to reflection upon food as an enemy of man. It gets in Romance's way. It doesn't get in work's way. It costs money. Why do we bother with the stuff, anyhow?

Little Steals

Union Labor Turns To Hit-and-Run Strikes

Though we can see on every hand signs that all is not well with our total war machine, we have been led to believe that, of all its component parts, Labor is giving most freely of its efforts. Because big strikes have dwindled, the public has the impression that our workers are, almost to the man, doing their duty as patriots. Such, however, is not the case. Work stoppage, through the six months since Pearl Harbor, has been more damaging than lack of materials.

An official report by the National Association of Manufacturers indicates that the protracted strike is gone, has been replaced by the short, hit-and-run type, obscured by bigger news. But, in the first six months of this year 619 strikes, involving 24,000 men, and costing over 7,000,000 man-hours, have crippled the American struggle toward wartime power.

The War Labor Board has long since spoken its mind, saying that strikes of any kind, jurisdictional or otherwise, would not be tolerated. But strikes continue to erupt, and are responsible for one per cent of all American workers. Labor is only twenty per cent unionized, yet 99 per cent of the little strikes of 1942 have occurred in unorganized plants.

The list of examples of trivial issues over which strikes have been raised is long and unending. It includes workers at General Tire & Rubber Co. refused work with 25 re-instated alien employees, at Hudson Naval Ordnance Arsenal 6,000 men struck because of "employment of Negroes on machines which were formerly operated" by miners, at the American Cyanamid Co. because of low water pressure in their homes; 150 men walked out when a superintendent, for "failing to get to work Saturday morning in proper condition," was fired at Cogswell Manufacturing Co. And so on.

If these are "the people," as Organized Labor considers its members to be, then they are not guilty, as often charged, of complacency. They are guilty of a low, stupid treason.



Plan For Victory

An American Shakeup

By Paul Mallon

WASHINGTON MR. RUSSELL DAVENPORT, editorial offices, Life Magazine, New York City.

Dear Mr. Davenport: You asked me, and some other Washington correspondents, to express an opinion on the progress of the U. S. war effort, and to suggest concrete steps to improve it.

The question, as you put it, is: "If you were President, what would you do, immediately, to improve the war effort and make more certain of victory?"

Let's get it straight at the start that what I would do must not be construed as leveling charges at Mr. Roosevelt and the Government. Perhaps we were so completely unprepared, before we were plunged into this war, that it would have been physically impossible for us to accomplish much more than we have.

But I do not intend telling you what I would do. I would switch this country from the defensive, the "wait-and-see" attitude, into an aggressive offensive. I would start doing this by selecting only strong and aggressive personalities for every phase of Government activity, civilian as well as military. I would shake all others out.

I would choose men impartial in get at the enemy, men who think courageous and daring things can be accomplished, not fearfully dithering, but through coolness of scientific action—the type of Hitler, Admiral Byrd, and even Lindbergh. If I could find anything for him better to do than advising Henry Ford.

I might desire, for instance, that two spots were placed to hit the Aleutians in the Pacific for invasion of Japan and the North African continent for invasion of Europe through Italy.

Platform Of The People

Against The Salesmen

Editors, The News: Why all of this fuss for extra gasoline for traveling salesman? In my honest opinion it is the most un-American public question I have ever heard of. In face of the facts that we are selling from house to house from the dollar down and every penny to Java factories and finishing warships. Right here the dollar down and dollar a week salesman, in many cases, can find the company agent or hotelier possessing considerable taking in the goods.

I would in that case call in forces from every other spot and throw everything I had into these two. And I would get a man to lead those attacks who has enthusiasm and confidence that they would win.

I would employ a group of my own technical experts on a weapon and satisfy myself that the Army and Navy are producing the best possible. I would send Representative London Johnson over to the Air Corps with his charge that many of our planes were inefficient in the Pacific and I would insist on getting the matter thrashed out at once.

I would put strict limits on civilian activity by every means I could command, including bonds and hunting. I would take every coast-wise ship away from sugar trade and bananas, and use these ships in aggressive war action to support an attack. I would expect the people to go entirely without sugar if it was necessary.

I would practice democracy to the fullest possible extent. I would expect patriotic co-operation on a voluntary basis and take nothing else. I would get citizens themselves making Sunday dinners or waters at the dining table or in business life, very unpopular.

I would cut down or out, all these demands for rationing and get more conservation by democratic enthusiasm. I would choose a man to handle the rubber and tin situations who believes rubber trees and tin can be produced.

I would not countenance negative leadership anywhere in my Government. I would have frozen prices and wages six months ago. In short, I would get tough. I would put some fight into this thing everywhere by active stimulation and assertive democratic leadership. I would get off the defensive in Washington, in the country, on the high seas, everywhere, and say that way.

Yours sincerely, PAUL MALLON.

No Short Cut War Is Work

By Raymond Clapper

WASHINGTON QUOTE: Would, some Army officer to me, I that as a people we are looking for a cure-all to win the war some easy way. Our observation, made not in any spirit of complaint but in the course of a matter-of-fact appraisal of what we stand, struck me as having a good deal of point just now.

Our instinct tells us—and you may be sure that the information in Washington supports it—that we have a much harder fight on our hands than we thought some time ago. Naturally, we look for some trick way that will spare us the agony of winning the hard way.

For instance, the cargo plane is an essential of modern war. Manufacture has been going on for some time. In fact, its usefulness is so obvious that in our eager search for a short cut we begin to dream of enormous fleets of cargo planes carrying as much as freight cars, taking the place of surface ships. There are proposals to shift from shipbuilding to cargo planes, even to shift from bomber production to cargo planes. If you allow yourself to dream a moment you can see all of our supply problems overcome by using thousands of flying freight cars.

Such dreams begin with a practical idea, but inflate it until it assumes grotesque shape that loses all touch with reality. Although the agitation of such plans serves a stimulating purpose, the actual extent to which they can be developed may depend upon many factors of materials, possible plant capacity, and time, that are beyond the knowledge of most of us.

Many people are impatient that the 1000-plane raids over Germany have not been maintained. Yet the enormous tonnage of gasoline consumed, the losses of crews and planes which drain replacements, creates many difficulties of which the bystander is unaware. It is flying to India and China last Spring, I had several opportunities to observe the enormous effort required to keep in the air even the pitifully small force of planes there.

Homon Lake, the pioneer submarine designer, proposes cargo submarines, large enough also to transport 2,500 troops. If you can build a small submarine you can build a large one. But how long would it take? That always is a question in this war.

These are not rick-pick ideas in principle. But the physical task of production imposes stern limits. Archimedes said that if he had a lever long enough and a fulcrum strong enough he could lift the earth. His principle was sound. But he was up against a production problem. I may seem to belittle imagination and boldness but that is not the purpose. We are up against bold and imaginative enemies. We shall need every ounce of these qualities ourselves. We have been slow in some respects, slow to develop airplanes, slow to break away from the battleship. Our Army was inefficient to gliders until the Germans used them. We seem to outdo our enemies in imagination.

But we learn something else from them, the thing that I suppose my military friend has in mind. It is that with all the tricks that can be employed, there still remains a lot of hard pedestrian plugging to do. Hitler used the blitz, heavy bombing, the dive bombers, the troop carriers, gliders and parachutists. They depended on no one of these alone. It still had to be done through hard, grinding campaigns as the Japanese troops have had to do. To win thus far they have used everything. They tried short cuts but they did not win the war.

Very likely we shall have the same experience. We are not likely to find a simple formula or simple device for victory any more than Hitler has found one. But if, in his advanced military technique he is finding the road hard and paved with the mangled bodies of his own men, no miraculous short cut has worked for him, and we will save ourselves bitter disappointment if we cease expecting a miracle on our side.



"She's my ideal! I'm going to enlist and bomb Yokohama or some place—then they'll send me on furlough to Hollywood and I'll meet her!"

On The Contrary

Thank YOU, Gov.

In The News of Friday, July 31, we found on the back page, nestled up to the Dorothy Knox column, a little Associated Press story from Raleigh. It told of the \$18,988,155 balance in North Carolina's general fund for the fiscal year, and it ended exactly like this:

"The Governor took cognizance of ex-Governor O. Max Gardner's recent proposal that all State employees be given a minimum raise of ten per cent as a result of the surplus accumulation, and said:

"Say: I saw it in The News, Thank you."

Visitin' Around

OH, WELL, ANYTHING TO GET AWAY FROM GREENSBORO 124 Years Ago Item. Dave Records

V. E. Swain, who holds a position in Greensboro, has been home for several days suffering with boils on his neck.

WHAT'D HE GET—EGG-NOG? 35 Years Ago. Lexington Dispatch

Charles Cutting had a way of making horse hay in Winter. Last Winter he mixed a little "fire water" with feed and says he got immediate results.

SITTING UNDER THE APPLE TREE WITH HER (Baitly Camp Item. Leslie News-Triple)

Homey Holick wanted to give his girl a buggy ride Sunday since it was his last Sunday home. Not knowing how to drive a horse very good, he thought the horse should go as fast as a car. So the horse stepped his hind leg too high, got it fast. So thereupon he had a horse race, tore up the buggy and the horse got his leg hurt, but he took away it when they went off the road an apple tree caught the buggy, so no one was hurt.

The Real Solution

To Prostitution

Editors, The News: I imagine it takes as much courage to write about prostitution as it took to say a word

TODAY'S BIBLE THOUGHT

DUTY Christ gave us a positive law to love all men. Then the negative law will not be needed. You have heard that if you said up them of old time, thou shalt not kill.—Matt. 5: 21

A Hand For The Helping

Editors, The News: I wish to take this opportunity to thank your paper for the splendid support given during the war rubber campaign, which has just been completed. We understand Mecklenburg County was on top for North Carolina.

We give your paper a large amount of credit for this success, and we especially want to thank your Mr. Levitt. His co-operation was splendid.

Charlotte.

—A. L. DUON