

THE CHARLOTTE NEWS

And Evening Chronicle

Published Every Afternoon Except Sunday by The News Publishing Company, Inc.

W. C. Dowd Jr., President and General Manager J. E. Dowd, Vice-President and Editor

W. C. Dowd, 1863-1927

The daily edition of The Charlotte News was established in 1888. The Evening Chronicle (established 1893) was purchased by and consolidated with The Charlotte News May 8, 1914.

The News desires to be notified promptly of errors in any of its reports that proper correction may be made at once.

MEMBER ASSOCIATED PRESS AND WIDE WORLD

The Associated Press is exclusively entitled to the use for publication of all news dispatches credited to it or not otherwise credited to this paper, and also the local news published herein.

Subscribed in second class matter at the Post Office at Charlotte, N. C., under the act of March 3, 1879.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES

By carrier: 30 cents a week; one month, \$1.00. By mail: One month \$7 cents; three months, \$2.50; six months, \$5.00; one year, \$10.00.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 1942

Scrap

—By Herblock

The Merit System For The Soldiers

By Dick Young

Men who are fighting democracy's cause along the far flung battle lines in this war made their influence felt at City Hall this week. A purely local question that had apparently been settled and shunted away in the "closed file" was suddenly revived, all because of America's service men.

This question was that of the State Merit System, which had troubled placid waters around the city and which had been settled when the City Council declined to enter the system and had refused a proffered grant of \$25,500 from the State Board of Health. But this week, came the announcement that the Memorial Hospital's request for financial assistance in providing obstetric and pediatric care for dependents of the men in the service had been turned down by the State Board of Health, with the explanation that the Board would allocate such funds to those counties and districts that more fully co-operate with the State Board of Health.

City Manager Flack was quick to realize the implications of this statement and voiced the opinion that dependents of those who are fighting for their country should not be penalized by some action of the City Council. Flack wrote a letter to Mayor Currie, suggesting the possibility of review of the entire situation. And he went to Raleigh yesterday to confer with officials of the State Board of Health in a further effort to secure information regarding the operation of the merit system.

There are other ample reasons why the situation should be reviewed. In the first place, the City stands to lose \$25,500, which the State Board of Health has offered to give this year. Of course the normal functions of the local health department will probably not require the full amount, but taking the amount that was actually received last year (around \$17,000) the City will lose at least \$18,000 after deducting the increased salary costs imposed by the State Merit System. From every angle it would be well for the Council to reconsider the plan.

Off the record: Here's one fire that never got on the fire department records. Last Sunday morning Fire Chief Hendrix Palmer was sitting on his front porch, reading, as his wife made preparations for breakfast. The telephone rang and Mrs. Palmer answered it. While the conversation was going on, the grease in the sink caught fire and Mrs. Palmer ran and took it to the sink to douse water on it. But the flames were leaping so high the curtains were ignited and then it was Mrs. Palmer yelled for her fire-fighting husband. With horns of war, the chief extinguished the flames but not before the curtains were ruined and the woodwork around the window charred.

Service Record: A goodly number of municipal employees are in the military service. This week, I received a letter from Police Officer Carl Hollman, who joined the Tar Heel Platoon of the Marines and is now undergoing training at the Marine Barracks, San Diego, Calif. . . . Also recently received a card from T. C. Wood, Jr., formerly in charge of the police-fire broadcaster, who is in Alaska on a radio assignment from the Federal Communications Commission. . . . Gene Griswold, former fireman, who has been stationed at Morris Field, has gone to Florida to attend an officers' training school.

Nice Work

At \$6,500, Time and a Half Is in the Dough

The amenities of the pros and regulations of employment as promulgated by the New Deal were beautifully, and unwittingly, illustrated the other day.

Civil Service Commissioner told a Senate committee that "glaring inequalities" existed in the Government service; that a stenographer in the Navy yard gets pay and a half for work in excess of 40 hours a week, while stenographers in the Navy Department proper get no overtime; that mechanics in the department get time and a half for overtime, but that department only gets straight time. And then this Civil Service Commissioner reached down into his bag of glaring inequalities and pulled out this tear-jerker:

"At present, several employees are on overtime, doing the same type of work, may be treated differently. A \$6,500 lawyer in the Navy Department is paid for overtime, but when his stenographer works overtime she gets nothing."

Well, it's all right about letting the stenographer have her overtime, but what's ever heard of paying wages and a half to a \$6,500 employee? Why, the stenographer is drawing down \$123 a week already. If regularly he put in twenty hours beyond his 40 hours, his pay would be \$250 a week, or \$13,000 annually (more than a Senator draws) with vacation and sick-leave and everything.

Suppose that the Government's biggest mistake lay not in paying overtime for \$6,500 lawyers, but in paying \$6,500 for lawyers to do the work of law clerks. We're in favor of calling the whole thing off and going back to Cleveland.

Well, Er...

Senators Didn't Quite Get That Anti-Inflation, Right at First

On the floor of the Senate this week, almost all week, debate raged over the President's ordered anti-inflation bill. The nation as a whole did not seem to understand the bill as it came out of the House. During the course of debate, three members of the Senate engaged in a little by-play which seemed to indicate that all was not lucidity with them, either.

We cavestrop here at a selected moment in the careers of Senators Brown (La.), Barkley (Ky.) and George (Ga.). As we enter, the discussion is some hours old. They are getting down to brass tacks now. Already long passages of a prepared bill have been read. The galleries are hushed, lights dim. We are in the Senate chamber:

MR. GEORGE. I wish to order to make the joint resolution clear—because I am trying to find out what it means—I let me ask the Senator a further question. Suppose in the case of what you refer to beef cattle the President were to find that the highest prices paid to the producers of such beef cattle between Jan. 1, 1942, and Sept. 15, 1942, as adjusted by the Secretary, and so forth, were \$1.00 a pound. Then I would be the President's duty to fix that as the maximum price; would it not?

MR. BROWN. That is correct.

MR. BARKLEY. As the minimum price; not the maximum. It would not be his duty to fix it as the maximum.

MR. BROWN. He could do so.

MR. BARKLEY. He could fix it.

MR. BROWN. Yes, that is what the Senator from Georgia means.

MR. BARKLEY. But he would not be required to do it.

MR. BROWN. Yes.

MR. GEORGE. Then I do not understand the joint resolution at all, because that the President is to fix prices, and it provides that:

"No maximum price shall be established or maintained for any agricultural commodity under authority of this joint resolution."

MR. BARKLEY. Any price which is lower than a certain amount.

Half an hour later, the talk still flows:

MR. BROWN. Mr. President, I did not have the floor. Somehow I seem to have taken it for the last hour. I had concluded.

This is only our advance guard. Anti-inflation is still far from becoming a fact. Now, do you think the country will ever understand?

No. Hum

Army-Navy Leaders, Wearied of U.S.-Vichy Talk, Want Action

The venerable State Department has not been the target of concentrated American criticism during the war, but despite the fact that Secretary Cordell Hull and Activator Sumner Welles have been getting tougher and tougher on Vichy, they have been called to account for the Army and Navy. The military services are making no secret of their demands for haste in action against Vichy France and her possessions. In that field, they are stumbling over the State Department's heels.

Since Pierre Laval rose to power in April, the Department has been engaged in a kind of "appeasement" campaign, playing for time as it played along in the Pacific. These negotiations, however, are different. Because we have not been dealing with a power less than we can handle, we have accomplished little. We have, as a matter of fact, no true guarantees of Vichy's faith.

The British, it will be remembered, waited four precious months in negotiations with Vichy, seeking to neutralize Madagascar as an Axis submarine base. Finally the British had to move—and that is what Army and Navy men want to do now in the case of Dakar, Martinique and other Vichy holdings. The military view is that U. S.-Vichy negotiations with the status of Martinique (which have been going on since May) will come to naught.

Our fighting leaders, who must bear the burden of the Allied attack when it comes, want to seize Dakar now in order to protect our South Atlantic supply lines. The status of Martinique (which have been going on since May) will come to naught.

Our fighting leaders, who must bear the burden of the Allied attack when it comes, want to seize Dakar now in order to protect our South Atlantic supply lines. The status of Martinique (which have been going on since May) will come to naught.

Zoot Suit

The Drape Shape May Be Safe From the Ravages of War

Those who are given to pondering over the outward manifestations of our Century of Progress have, no doubt, been put up short by the appearance of that new uniform of America's hep youth, the zoot suit. That mark of mankind's advancement seems to stand alone, without an apparent reason for its existence. As heralds, the zoot suit is a kind of Gothic-Moorish atrocity with lines completely out of this world.

It is, nonetheless, with us, and apparently is to stay for its full reign as a strange departure from the norm. For, though many another garment-style is feeling the touch of war, the zoot goes on with its drape shape almost as fast. A Maryland tailor by the name of Nick, we note (and an authority beyond question), has given out with the facts.

The knee-length coat is fairly safe, though it will be lifted slightly out of the hips' deference to war conditions. The forty-inch knees will be deflated somewhat, but not enough to ruin the effect; the fourteen-inch bottoms will still sit snugly about the ankles, minus cuffs; the spreading lapels are here to stay. And the knee-length dog chain which comes from belt to knee to pocket—and holds nothing—is untouched by restrictions.

As such a fearsome Americanism one hesitates to point a finger. Perhaps the zoot had best be left as it is, above war and shock. A prospect of nothing much, by the way, we made a search for zoot in Webster's knowing pages. The best we could do was *cozzetto*, meaning an animal worshiper. Maybe that's good enough at that, things being as they are in the 'joke joints of the nation.

Everything has now been said about Dieppe that would be, except "Lafayette, where were you?"

It's On The Way The Biggest Draft

By Paul Mallon

WASHINGTON

MANPOWER mobilizer Paul McNutt is starting to drum up sentiment in Congress for legislation empowering him to draft a labor army.

The way he is doing it indicates his drum-beating is designed primarily to sound out public sentiment. The rest of the Administration, including the White House, is keeping quiet to see how he comes out.

His initial ventures suggest Congress is not ready yet to take such a revolutionary way of solving the labor problem.

A drafting bill has been proposed by Senator Lister Hill. But Mr. Hill concedes his bill would just about go the rest of the way toward establishing a totalitarian state. That is just what makes the idea abhorrent to most Congressmen. They cannot see the sense of embracing what they are so ardently warning against.

It is beginning to break upon them that this nation has been too much influenced by Hitler's methods. Subconsciously, in the past, our statesmen have grasped the totalitarian way of cracking down on all problems with arbitrary Federal power, as if that was the only efficient way of doing things.

It is beginning to dawn on them that perhaps they can get better efficiency, more hearty co-operation and glad sacrifices from the people, if they try to meet our problems in as much of a democratic way as possible.

Therefore it looks like Mr. McNutt is running into a snare until his labor draft, and that another way will be found.

Congress is certainly ripe to act on the problem, which is not being over-estimated by McNutt. He has the classrooms of both Houses. Twenty different boards are dealing now with manpower, and without the slightest evidence of success.

Senator Thomas cannot get help to run his Idaho irrigated farm and his manager is threatening to quit. Senator Borah is fretting from Ansted Clayton, biggest cotton broker, that the Southern labor problem will bring a crop of poor quality cotton, although wages are four and five times normal.

One hundred farms in a single county in Ohio are



Side Glances

"The old goat! With all the young men gone, he's had his son's clothes cut down to fit him and thinks he's a treat to the girls!"

Platform Of The People Walks Of Brevard

Scenes on sidewalkless Brevard Street, between 25th and 28th Streets

Editors, The News: You are probably familiar with the song, "The Sidewalks of New York." I want to sing another song, "The Sidewalks of Brevard." I am sending actual views photographed of the places where these walks should be—but aren't!

Now that they have taken off our buses I think we are at least entitled to a place to walk. Will you help us out in the Brevard street section by giving the matter some publicity? These pictures were taken on the high spots between 25th and 28th Streets, and are typical of the entire area. Don't you think something could be done about this?

2018 N. Brevard Street, Charlotte.

W. F. WOODY,

New Platform GOP Makes A Gain

By Raymond Clapper

WASHINGTON

THE campaign platform adopted by the Republican members of the House represents an attempt to take the party from the embarrassing position into which some of its isolationists threatened to lead it. The declaration is intended to put the Republican Party fully behind the war, and against appeasement, a negotiated peace or anything else but military victory.

Work on this declaration was begun some weeks ago through the inspiration of Republicans who had long supported the Roosevelt Administration's general foreign policy. They were concerned with the pre-Parli Harbor attitude of some in the party and felt that the minority Republican Party could be effective in criticism of the conduct of the war unless it took pains to make these criticisms constructive in support of the war. The inspiration for this did not come from those holding official positions in the Republican Party organization so much as it came from men like Representatives Hope of Kansas and Wigglesworth of Massachusetts and also from some other Republicans who have shared the views of Wendell Willkie.

Also significant is the postwar attitude taken in the Republican congressional platform. The declaration says that the Republican Party members recognized that the United States has an obligation and responsibility to work with other nations to bring about a world understanding and co-operative peace. The resolution states, however, that in so doing we must not endanger our own independence, or weaken our American way of life or our system of government.

The language, as is usual with most political platforms, is sufficiently vague for a man to interpret it

Ordinance Men Send Thanks

Editors, The News: As a member of the Affiliation Committee, I want you to know that I sincerely appreciate the attention and co-operation that you and your fire paper gave us while the Ordinance Officers were here from Washington to discuss the 32nd Ordinance Company, and I am advising Major J. R. Gooding of the War Department as well as the N. C. Automobile Dealers Association of your fine co-operation and help.

—E. T. ATKINSON, Charlotte.

She Likes Our Dottie

Editors, The News: During the past nine years, I have been traveling through forty-two of our erst-while states and have had occasion to read many city newspapers. I find yours one of the most interesting of the lot. In particular, I wish to comment Miss Dorothy Knox's column, which I always enjoy when I am in either of the Carolinas and have the opportunity of getting The News.

—M. R. LANDAU, Barringer Hotel.