

# THE CHARLOTTE NEWS

And Evening Chronicle

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## Red Reaper

Hitler's Admission of Reverse  
Presages the Final Defeat

Berlin's almost frantic announcement that the 22 doomed Nazi divisions before Stalingrad face annihilation not only marks the first admission of serious reverse in Russia; it is also the first hint from official German sources that defeat in war has become a looming possibility. For, despite the fact that Germany's armies are still magnificent weapons for attack or defense, their bleeding in the East has brought them to the brink of disaster.

If the Red Army is able to keep its drives rolling, capture Rostov and destroy North-South communications, then the great Southern area must be evacuated by Hitler, and a whole new flank will become vulnerable. The ferocity of the Soviet advance has completely altered the face of the conflict. No longer is the important speculation based upon the breakup of German morale at home; it is now possible that German armies will suffer a military catastrophe from which they can be no recovery.

In Africa, too, there can be little hope that the Nazis can long endure. With General Alexander already in possession of Tripoli, and growing Allied air power over Tunisia, the delayed squeeze is coming. The retreating Rommel still has a long trip ahead to Tunis, with a great background at his disposal if he chooses to make a stand; but lacking air power and being outnumbered on the ground, he may well lose the race, and place Hitler's forces in a double squeeze.

Official sources in London and Washington have consistently advised caution to the people at home, and deplored sublime optimism. But with the Russians continuing to take a heavy toll, and Hitler facing ever-growing power in Africa, there must now be real hope among the High Command that the war can be ended in 1943.

## Birth Rate

It Must Be Supervised, Not  
Returned to the Midwives

The question of extending the service of Charlotte's maternity clinic after the Duke Internes are recalled in March is not simply a matter of importance; it is one of life and death for the entire community. For, despite the remarkable gain in hospital and medical facilities here, the birth rate of the city is not piled up in quick-span delivery rooms, but in the homes.

For several years Duke Internes, working for experience, have supervised the births of more than two-thirds of Charlotte's babies. Last year well over 1,000 births were attended by the young men of the clinic, and with their departure the city must take up the burden. If the work of the clinic is left with the Health Department, a return to midwifery will result—and with all the attendant dangers of such a system, the city will be as large as that of a plan of hospitalization.

It is to be hoped that City Manager R. W. Flack and Administrator Carl Flath of Memorial Hospital will carry through the present plan of supervising clinics at Memorial and the Good Samaritan, where facilities are available to meet the city's needs in the coming crisis. That appears to be the only solution to the pressing problem. The time has come to end the all too common scenes of the city streets, hundreds of them performed in dark, dirty rooms where the first wail of the new infants proclaim birth as it has been in bygone generations, with none of the benefits of life-saving progress.

## Dixie Do

The South Controls Congress,  
And Carries a Heavy Burden

The declaration of independence by Congress isn't enough. It is well established that it's going to be its own boss, eligible for appointment and liable to criticism of its acts. But it might be of interest just now to note that the South, and, in a position to control Congress, and steer it as it will. The question of Dixie's desires in national and international legislation has not been of greater importance since the formative years of the nation.

The states holding Democratic majorities in both houses (Maryland, Virginia, the Carolinas, Georgia, Florida, Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana, Arkansas, Tennessee, West Virginia, Kentucky, and Missouri) are in a position to control Congress, and steer it as it will. The question of Dixie's desires in national and international legislation has not been of greater importance since the formative years of the nation.

tucky and Tennessee) are, by and large, represented by conservatives.

Actual Southern strength is counted in 79 of 97 Democratic seats in the Senate, and more than 120 of the 222 Democratic seats in the House. And the recent record of that voting strength has pitted the South against other sections consistently. On the Smith anti-strike bill, 108 Southerners voted "yes" by eight; non-Southern Democrats voted 100 to 21 for the bill. Fifty-three of the 56 Southerners voted against the Wage-Hour bill, and so right on down the line, against labor unions and higher taxes. Southern votes may be split, however, when peace-making time comes around. The Deep South has been aggressively interventionist, as against some of its Western neighbors, but it has sided with the Western farm sentiment. With potential control of the direction of war and peace, the South carries a great responsibility. It is fortunate that the day of Dixie's yelling radicals (Tom Watson, Pitchfork Bill Tillman, Cole Blease and Fitch Long) is gone.

## Too Much Money

Uncle Sam's Eye Glitters at  
Record Cash Circulation

We don't know where or how he got it, but the American consumer has a sight more money these days than is good for him. That's according to the Government view, and a move is under way to take it away from him, now. He carries it in his jeans, or has it ready for quick disposal in his bank. It's more than anyone else ever had before, for any length of time.

In June 1929, at the peak of the boom, old Consumer had something less than five billions in circulation; in late August, 1939, he had more than seven billions. Last year, his total was in excess of eleven billions. But today, flowing in public, where Consumer can get at it, is a fantastic fifteen and a half billions. Wherefore the Government lives in fear.

The fear is that Consumer might use his new wealth unwisely, and by clicking it in the wrong places, might bring inflation overnight. In liquid form, such an accumulation of cash is thought to be so dangerous as to threaten an immediate tidal wave of spending.

A national sales tax is the answer to Consumer's joyful problem, for its imposition would likely set off an unprecedented buying spree—and there are still enough goods available to permit spending almost without limit. And because not even the buzzing bureaus dare suggest that bank deposits be frozen, another solution must be found.

The millions who wonder how in thunder they'll meet income taxes in March may be puzzled over the whole affair, but for their enlightenment, direct taxes on spending are on the way. Things may seem tough now, but it is only the beginning. Consumer started it all, when he jingled the jits in his jeans.

## Fast Work

Blythe and McDougall Steer An  
Important Bill To Success

Even in a speed-minded Legislature, it is a tribute to the standing and political skill of Senator Joe Blythe and Representative H. H. McDougall of Mecklenburg that the Blythe bill in behalf of the State's feeble-minded children made such rapid progress on its way to passage. Finally, we believe, the bill will result in the relief of one of North Carolina's most persistent problems.

For the study proposed by Senator Blythe is certain to indicate the need for expanding the services now offered by Caswell Training School, and it has already been shown that the lawmakers are conscious of the Piedmont's lack of such facilities—and are willing to take action. This campaign, of course, has been a concern of The News for a long while, and we look with satisfaction as the County's legislators do their part to bring relief to the young sufferers.

Perhaps the limited debate on the bill will amount to no more than a bit of byplay, but we sensed the danger of political interference at Rep. Wallace's insistence that no new children's hospital unit be undertaken, but that Caswell in his home county should be enlarged. The method may be of little moment so long as care is provided for the mentally defective children, but an expansion of present facilities is not nearly so likely to meet the great need as is the development of a new institution. For our part, we're willing to leave that task to Messrs. Blythe and McDougall, confident that they will see it through.

# When The Fight Begins Within Himself, A Man's Worth Something.—BROWNING.

## The Generals Are Busy

## Let Politicians Politic

By Raymond Clapper

WASHINGTON

I said to a friend of mine that perhaps the fighting French were being too exclusive in objecting to the Vichy French with whom we were working in North Africa, and why couldn't they forget their factions and unite against the Germans?



Obviously I had touched a charged nerve. My friend made a little speech to me: "Suppose people had gone to General George Washington and urged him to take Benedict Arnold back. Arnold was a good general, one of Washington's ablest. Suppose the proposition had been put up to General Washington that Benedict Arnold had become disappointed over his deal with the British and was rather anxious to become an American patriot again and would like to come back on General Washington's staff. General Washington needed good generals. But do you think he would have found it expedient to take Benedict Arnold back? Would General Washington and the American soldiers—desperately as they needed help—have been willing to fight beside a general who had once beted them and gone over to the enemy? There are principles that fight harder than expediency does."

Similarly, this French business in North Africa is charged with intense emotions growing out of the fact that some Frenchmen like General de Gaulle refused to surrender in 1940, whereas other Frenchmen like Marcel Perouton gave up to the Germans. Indeed, Perouton, who has just been made Governor of Algeria by us, has been considered a Fascist. Sketches of what he has done do not make reading that goes under the banner of the Four Freedoms. How much of this is fair to him is difficult to say. But he does not look like one of our side. He has not seemed interested in defeating Germany. The argument that he is a good administrator is not alone enough to justify importing him from Argentina, where he has been Vichy ambassador.

The best that has been said of him in the current discussion is that he was in the anti-Laval wing of the Petain crowd.

The intricate policy that rebuffs Frenchmen who want to fight the Germans, and takes up with Frenchmen who have been playing ball with them, is hard to follow at this late date. Secretary Hull became angry when reporters questioned him about it this week. The powers here may be able to turn down questions by telling newspaper reporters it would be better to think about the war instead of raising these matters. But this situation raises a question as to what this war is all about.

Our officials have told us we were fighting to exterminate the Nazi-Fascist aggressors. They tell us, as President Roosevelt did in his radio broadcast last October, that individual Nazis and Fascists responsible for the war and for the outrages against helpless people would be tried and punished after the war. Yet we accept their kindred spirits, their French collaborators in North Africa, and import one of them to the high post of governor of Algeria.

It is becoming difficult to know whether it is the fighting French or the Axis sympathizers that we want on our side. A fighting French leader went to North Africa recently and after about a week on the spot was invited to leave. The effect of all this on the underground movements in other occupied territories is hard to be discouraging. Men and women who risk their lives to carry on the underground fight, and to prepare for the day when the fight can be waged against Germany, see that in North Africa the fighting French underground is repressed while those who had collaborated with the Axis are placed in control.

The battle for Tunisia is bound to be difficult. General Eisenhower must be fully occupied with preparations for it. There surely is sufficient ability among the United Nations to handle the political situation at his rear for him. The Germans don't expect their military officers to stop fighting in order to act as political fixers. Their generals are left free to wage war, and civilians are hauled in to shoulder the political headaches.

## The War Will Have To Wait

—By Herblock

