

THE CHARLOTTE NEWS



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WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 6, 1943

Our Hopes For A Future

Ten Suggestions for the Betterment Of the State in Uncertain Times

We'll go along far enough with the state Communist Party to agree that the present session of North Carolina's General Assembly should not be rushed through as a mill of routine legislation, and cut short because of wartime conditions; that, rather, it should demand the best of our legislators in careful contemplation of the unknown years ahead.

For the most part, we were pleased by the expressed views of Mecklenburg's delegation yesterday. They reflected a realization of the special problems of North Carolina existing in great number. This is no time for blabbering over minor changes in legislation, or for radical experiment. The State is still to be fully geared to a war program, and that is the job we see for the men in Raleigh.

For ourselves, we have a little list of objectives, a legislative hope chest for 1943 and the years ahead. Making no attempt to foresee or compete with Governor Broughton's recommendations of tomorrow, we submit them as they come to mind:

- 1. Safeguard the \$30,000,000 State surplus, one of the largest in the country, and invest at least two-thirds of it in short-term U. S. Government bonds or mark it for the retirement of State bonds.
2. Adopt the recommendations of the Governor's Board on the State Hospitals, providing for a central board of control and increasing appropriations per patient at least to the national average.
3. Provide an optional plan for a

state-wide nine-months school term, increase teachers' salaries to conform with rising costs of living.

4. Set aside funds to be used in continuation of social welfare work in the state as the Federal Government is forced to abandon such work—and set definite limits of State responsibility.

5. Kill the absentee ballot, except for the use of members of the armed forces.
6. Extend to the Governor broader emergency powers to meet quickly changing conditions in war and without reference to any authority other than the Council of State.

7. Set up a new judicial district for Mecklenburg County as authorized by the recent constitutional amendment, and provide restricting for other districts in which criminal court dockets are seriously overcrowded.

8. Continue present taxation in force, and place State revenues upon a continuing basis, guided by the Council of State; take advantage of Community Property Tax so long as the Federal Government allows other states to benefit thereby.

9. Amend the State's labor laws, placing limits upon union fees and dues, both in war plants and private industry.
10. Provide funds for the authorized State Planning Commission and enable local governments to set up reserve funds of their own for such commissions.

Not nearly all of that, we feel certain, can be accomplished by this Legislature; but if it could, we believe the work of succeeding Legislatures would be made a great deal easier, and North Carolina's prosperity might continue into the threatening years. We look upon the ten points as representing a limited ideal.

New South

War Found the Region Ready To Assume Its Greatest Role

The economist who thundered, in a slow drawl, that the South was coming into its own in this war-period because of its temperature and abundant natural resources was, of course, leaving almost everything unsaid. That the great region was able to answer the call of the times was due to its spectacular rise to a place of national prominence over the years. Dixie's rising line of production happened to coincide happily with that of destiny.

In vital resources for war, the South is one of the world's richest regions. In a long list of essentials, it predominates: bauxite, and naval stores, 100 per cent; sulphur, 99 per cent; carbon black, cotton lint, and rice, 90 per cent or more; cotton yarn and rice, over 80 per cent; fertilizers, rayon and allied products and natural gasoline, 70 per cent or more; crude petroleum, 59 per cent. Without such production, there could be no American effort for this war.

Because many effects of new and expanded industries, training camps and shipyards will be permanent, it is clear that the South will emerge from the war with a new importance. The region, ready when the challenge came, may look forward to a great and constructive part of the post-war period, a time of sound prosperity. This will be a new kind of Solid South, with a strength of its own making and a vision of its own future.

Warning

Only Quick Action Can Prevent Escape of Axis War Criminals

Plans for the punishment of war criminals guilty of atrocities are progressing in London, where a court for their trial is about to be appointed. Such steps are admirable, but they are not enough. This time, there must be a guarantee that the guilty will come to trial, that the conquered nations will not be allowed to hide them, and that the vague misunderstandings known as international law will not interfere with justice.

After the last war Lloyd George was committed to the trial of the Kaiser, the French were "gaily acquiescent," and Americans gave unenthusiastic consent. But Holland, presented with a formal demand to surrender Wilhelm, refused on the ground that he had committed no crime under international law, and the project was dropped. Thereupon the Allies drew up a list of 900 Germans, charged with all types of heinousness, to be produced for trial.

After a year of stalling, the German Government finally agreed that some of them should be tried in German courts, with British, French and Belgian evidence submitted against them. Only six cases resulted in convictions (and light sentences), and Belgium, having borne the brunt of the fighting, presented only one case, which resulted in acquittal. Berlin had known that, since most of the men involved were soldiers (many military heroes), the Government would lose face with the public if it surrendered the 900. There must be no renderings of the guilty to the victors. The lists now being prepared in Allied capitals must be cleared by sentences and executions before the final provisions of peace are presented. Only thus can victory become a just victory or lead to a satisfactory peace.

The Scrap

Congress Ready for Fight To Regain Power of Bureaucrats

More than one Congressman, in the new session opens today, takes his seat in the hope that a battle will not be long in coming. A good portion of Congressional strength, on both sides, sees itself bearing a mandate from the people back home to crush bureaucracy. The battle lines are not clearly drawn by the belligerents themselves; the multitude of Washington irritations seems sufficient, and the boys are roaring. Most of the burden, significantly, is carried by Democrats. Mr. Summers of Texas keynoted the battle:

"What we are complaining about is that our government—well, it is not absolute but it is just about—we're complaining that bureaucracy is acting more and more like a bureaucracy. It is going to the people as it is the nature of a bureaucracy to act more and more like a government."

"It is my judgment that, for the first time in 25 years, the American people are going to assume the responsibility of governing."

"By the American people," Mr. Summers said, "the Congress, and the Congress alone. House and Senate alike see themselves as wallowing on the bottom of the pile of government, with the Executive and bureaus riding on top. Through the guise of administrative law, bureaus have assumed the legislative responsibility, and will continue to fight to keep it. Leaders in the House have said: 'Our powers were given away by a majority vote, but it will take a two-thirds vote to get them back.' It's going to take more than that, perhaps more than crime under international law. The bureaus have found this war made to their order, and they're strongly entrenched. The 76th Congress may be too late.

The Next Squeeze Play?

By Herblock



Military Secrets

Our Great New Weapons

By Raymond Clapper

WASHINGTON
AT ABERDEEN Proving Ground the other day, a group of us saw what the Ordnance Department is doing to provide the best weapons used in this war. They fired one of Rommel's guns for us.

It was in the sand-colored desert camouflage. Ordnance officers pointed out that the gun was long ago in American ordnance. Beside it were fired several of our 90-millimeter and our 105s. They make the German 88 and the German 105 look awkward. Our officers say it was the method of use, not the weapon, that made Rommel's 88-millimeter gun so sensational last Summer.

We pass him with a 105-millimeter howitzer, mounted on an M3 tank chassis. That's the tank killer, or what the British call "The Priest." It went into action against Rommel last Fall and helped drive him out of Egypt. They fired that one the other day, too, and all of the other weapons including the long 16-inch coast defense gun, including its mass projectile out of sight over the horizon.

Armored vehicles, our own, and Russian and German were shown. Our own, including experimental models, were run over the washboard

track. We saw the German jeep which is a fragile car. Actually it is the two-cylinder volks-car that Hitler was going to distribute to the German people. This German car is a frail, weak little vehicle compared to the tough American jeep.

They study many captured German weapons at Aberdeen. One of our Ordnance officers said that there was nothing magical about any of the German equipment, nothing unusual or unexpected about it. He thought it important to impress our own forces with that fact. We overheard the enemy's weapons when as a matter of fact, so these Ordnance officers insisted all day long, we have some weapons that are unmatched anywhere.

General Levin H. Campbell, chief of Ordnance, went around with us and you could see he was very proud of what they were showing us.

At the end, General Campbell said the Ordnance Department had to depend on industry and scientists to work with ordnance as a team. He said: "We make no bones about giving credit to industry for what it has done to help us. If the Nazis catch us and get ahead of us, it will be because of ordnance, the long-haired scientists we've got working for us, and industry have fallen down on our job. But I don't think that is going to happen."

You can see, when you visit such a proving ground, or when you go into the laboratories there, or into the war plants, as at Detroit, that it is a team effort. It has to be. The Government can't do it alone. Neither could industry. Other Government agencies could learn from the way Ordnance and industry have organized to work together. General Campbell ought to be asked to give some lectures to other administrative officials on his technique.

Relations between Government and private activities will be increasing as the war goes on. The Ordnance Department is most important and that democratic Government still has to learn.

Platform Of The People

The Nazis And Whisky

Editors, Friday News:

In your Friday, Dec. 25, issue of the "Platform Of The People" appeared an article about Sam and Whisky" in which the writer appeals to the readers to see itself bearing a mandate from the people back home to crush bureaucracy.

The battle lines are not clearly drawn by the belligerents themselves; the multitude of Washington irritations seems sufficient, and the boys are roaring. Most of the burden, significantly, is carried by Democrats. Mr. Summers of Texas keynoted the battle:

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"It is my judgment that, for the first time in 25 years, the American people are going to assume the responsibility of governing."

millions of tons of sugar to be made into beer and restrict your sugar for your coffee and tea?"

How about this, Americans? What do you say about this kind of propaganda? This is dangerous talk. Talk dreamed up without a fact behind it. If you want facts, don't read opinions. Get facts from the United States Government or its agencies. They don't mind giving you the facts about why they must restrict that kind of freedom. Why your boy must go to war. Why your girl must be a nurse or why you must replace your worn out tires. But there are some statements made by the writer that I must ask where he received them. I would like to know where he got that information ship destined for the Solomon was a "half-filled with beer?" Is that a half-filled with beer? What military strategists would be so stupid as to lose that much non-essential cargo? Would our War Shipping Administration lose upon the battlefronts to go half fed, half equipped, and then send them through the air to the battlefronts? What is this talk if not subversive?

In closing I would like to say that this war being fought is for the preservation of the liberty of the individual. The individual is the right to control the habits of his own life and wrong. The Government may enact a million laws but the individual must remain the master of his own conscience. No group of people have the right to control the habits of the individual whether it be drinking, eating, or sleeping. Our Government will not do so. It is barely the majority of the people experimented with the idea of prohibition of whisky and made it a drunks than legal whisky ever

did. Let me ask that if the wishes of these narrow-minded prohibitionists, playing into the hands of the big-time bootlegger, are again granted we will see the greatest national catastrophe possible in our history. The Nazis and their numerous stooges here in America.

H. L. WALKER JR.
Wilmington, N. C.

Safety Programs Do Their Job

Editors, The News:

I have just seen a copy of your Dec. 26 edition and wish to thank you for the space given an article on Industrial Safety that was submitted by Mr. Walter Y. Hooper.

We of the North Carolina Society of Safety Engineers are convinced that safety programs can do much to prevent a lot of lost time and suffering resulting from accidents. The press can aid greatly in safety work by publicizing such meetings as the one planned in Charlotte for Jan. 8.

M. F. TRICE, President, Charlotte.

Wishes From A Friend

Editors, The News:

It has been my pleasure for many years to read The Charlotte News—I am grateful for this good paper.

At this time of the new year I want to wish you and all those connected with The News very prosperous and happy New Year. May the prayers of God's people be answered, and may there be—and soon—a gift of great and lasting peace.

MRS. D. A. THOMPSON, Blackburg, S. C.

Sudden Thought

A Poor Show

By Samuel Crafton

NEW YORK
IT HAS become fashionable to regard the refusal of the American people, 25 years ago, to get hot about the League of Nations, as a historical instance of popular stupidity. Nobody has yet uttered the simple and conclusive answer that the American people did not become excited on behalf of the League, as then constituted, because the League was not very exciting.

Why blame the audience, when the show lays an egg? The people are the constants; in any political situation; if a particular scheme fails to appeal to them, the fault must lie in the scheme, not in the audience. The American people are not fools, as the League fools for not having taken a certain course of action, at a certain time, is political infatuation. If you want the people to endorse a plan you have to get up a plan that they will endorse.

The American people just couldn't become excited (enough) about the international cast of characters in charge of world affairs in 1919, and who can blame them? What was there about the Lloyd George, Clemenceau, Orlando, etc., and the other hardened eggs of that time to make the American people go dancing on the green, blissing each other in the streets, and dropping off to sweet, secure dreams?

Does it really seem so reasonable now that such men as these could, under any conceivable conditions, have made a safe, secure, prosperous world? I don't believe it, and the American people, in their own instinctively accurate way, didn't believe it, either.

The League proposed to do next to nothing about the things that really make sense to men, such as promoting individual security. Its content was largely a proposal to set up better methods for resolving international quarrels of little immediate concern to the average man. The average man responded with boredom, which is the way he votes between elections. The League was not a failure because it did not get popular support; it did not get popular support because it was a failure.

So, when the next such proposal comes along, those behind it had better make sure it is exciting. If they want the people to be excited about it, they must make it exciting.

Those of us who are in a frenzy of fear lest the people once again will turn down some dull, gray, meaningless international concoction, can be assured now that if it is dull, gray, and meaningless, the people will turn it down. You have to give them something they can't turn down. That is the way democratic process exercises its squeeze power on the reluctant.

If the brave new world turns out to be larded with Darwinism, if it includes "understanding" with the remnant Junkers of Germany, the royal household of Italy, the Hapsburgs of Austria, the frozen faces of the old French General Staff, and if it says nothing to each man about most on the label, the people will be excited, they will go to say fudge, and turn it down, taking their chances on luck.

The bad thing about our dalliance with Otto of Austria, you see, is not that it makes some people holler; it is that it disappoints all the people and makes them quietly indifferent. Liberal leaders, such as President Roosevelt, ought to need no reminder by this time that the worst result of "expediency" is not that you thereby surrender to dubious elements abroad, but that you lose support at home. The intensity of interest and enthusiasm dies down; by the time you are ready to present your final weary compromise for approval, nobody cares. The leader who commits Darwinism, defeats his own supporters.

If the next proposal resolutely excommunicates the guilty men and their supporters; if it sets up governments in Europe that do not require denouncing; if it includes an exchange of national vows to stop at nothing to achieve full employment; if it shows that some of the gray men who run affairs are willing to make the necessary national concessions, it will probably be adopted. Every compromise will drive a nail into the coffin of the creature. If it has nothing in it to make anybody mad, it will probably have nothing in it to make anybody glad, a thought often forgotten in the world makes sense.

Beddest Tape

Shame On Bureaus

Nation's Business
RUNNING through the month's discussion of bureaucracy were many illustrative anecdotes. Representative Barden, Democrat, of North Carolina, contributed one:

"I saw a farmer—an honest, horny handed, hard working farmer—ask for a permit in a rationing office. They told him he could not get it; that they were closed for the day; it was then 1 o'clock. The farmer said:

"This is the third time I have been after that permit to buy a pair of boots to use in cleaning out the ditches on my farm."

"Still he was refused. I said to him: 'Mr. So-and-So, maybe I can help you.' He said:

"I can't believe my Government wants to treat me this way." "I said to him: 'You come back.' I walked into the rationing office and said: 'You give me a permit; and they gave the three. That farmer looked at me and I honestly believe he was madder than he was before. He said:

"Now, ain't that a damned shame!" Mr. Barden agreed with him.

France Found Out

A MEMBER of the American Club of Paris said that one reason why France fell was that the French people were sick of their bureaucrats.

They had lost their loyalty to a Government which was presented to them by many ineffectual clerks and long standing in line to get some needless permit.

"I saw with my own eyes," continued Mr. Barden, "people standing in line 50 yards long to get some blank that any man with an ounce of brains could have made available to them within an hour, having to drive from one to 40 miles for it. How many times have they been there? They have been there for every conceivable thing. One man told me he had used up two weeks' gasoline allowance to get enough kerosene to have a light in his home.

I can see nothing except that somebody down in the OPA wants to net the people in the habit of crawling to men on hands and knees asking for something, if it is nothing but a sheet of paper."

Side Glances



"Well, well! So you've been promoted to captain in the artillery! Guess I schooled you pretty well when you were my delivery boy, eh, Bill?"