



THE CHARLOTTE NEWS

And Evening Chronicle

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SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 1943

The Encore

President Follows Churchill In Promise of Coming Attacks

Last night's message by President Roosevelt, had it come a few days earlier, might well have ranked with the great challenges of our time, a ringing challenge born of faith and confidence.

Like the Prime Minister, he spoke in a jovial, almost light-hearted mood. He saw on the broad chest board of the world before him the pawns of the United Nations outnumbering those of the Axis powers.

On the other hand, the President committed himself and his Administration to the policy of standing together with our Allies that the peace might be permanently kept.

From his preview of the coming campaign, it might be surmised that Casablanca conferees had given America its biggest job in the smashing of Japan.

Following Winston Churchill, the President spoke clearly of the force ready to strike against Japan or Germany to strike as soon as possible.

Blither memories of the grandeur that was Rome now come back with a new pang to the people of Mussolini's wasting empire.

On almost every fighting front, now, the dismal failure of an Army has cost Italy a casualty roll that amounts to a potential loss of 600,000 men a year.

When Rommel was running in Africa, when the Red Armies rolled in the East, and wherever Italian ships ventured in Mare Nostrum, there were sure struck down.

queors with a new desperation of fear, and look to the building of defenses in the North with sinking heart.

One-Fourth

The State Has Almost 500,000 "Functionally Illiterate" Adults

The Army, though forced to lower its standard for selectees has long clung to its principle of "functional illiteracy."

That, if proof were needed, demonstrates clearly how far State education has to go.

New York, with more than a million, leads, followed by Pennsylvania, Texas and Illinois.

An index of the progress made in the past generation is offered by Army figures: twelve per cent of present draftees are college graduates.

Hush Money

Farmers Won't Be Quieted By Special Benefit Payments

We feel very sympathy for the farmer in wartime over in the painful moment of buying gold-plated eggs.

But we believe that he has often been misrepresented by bloc spokesmen. His call for relief was in complicated terms of partly, was generally misunderstood.

We don't expect the average farmer to show appreciation of the policy calling for \$100,000,000 in "incentive payments."

He wants, we believe, no part in a movement to increase prices by spiral, and thus shake apart the national economy.

The picture of a West Point wedding gives us the happy pair surrounded by the customary drawn swords.

The Worker Lag

Absenteeism Is A Danger

By Raymond Clapper

ABSENTEEISM in war plants has become so high in some localities that War Production Board officials feel that something must be done to bring it down.

These absences rather than strikes, are the present danger in production plants. In Los Angeles the rate is around ten per cent of absentees.

Some time ago President Roosevelt indicated at a press conference that he did not think absenteeism was a matter of any consequence.

Those who take a complacent view of it, the professional defenders of labor in every argument, say that many causes contribute to absenteeism.

Washington, of all places where they ought to know better, put on one of the most disgraceful exhibitions in the country.

The \$500-a-Year-and-Up Question

—By Herblock



Caution Advised

Hospitals Can Be Burdens

By Dick Young

AT FIRST flush, the City and County Governments I think, do well to steer clear of any further hospital entanglements.

The City Government already has a hospital problem and the early struggles of the Memorial Hospital to get going are a municipal admission.

I may be wrong and I stand ready to be shown otherwise but in this movement of the doctor-owners of the Sanatorium property I can see only a plan to throw the burden of reviving an expiring institution on the shoulders of the City Government.

Quote, Unquote

IT IS estimated that 50,000 pairs of shoes are lying in a dust on the streets only occasionally. Put idle shoes to work.

The South Pacific story might have been told in the last three or four months had we not established ourselves in the Solomon successfully.—Navy Secretary Frank Knox.

Idle women in their neighborhoods are down on the shelves clean of everything on them.

Nobody here expects less than two per cent of absenteeism in a plant, and perhaps more must be expected if hours are made longer under the new Presidential order.

The record of labor regarding strikes has been excellent. The loss of work from strikes has become negligible.

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It's A Game

The Home Front

By Samuel Grafton

SOMETIMES it rains, sometimes it rains, sometimes the sun shines, but obscuration goes on every day and forever.

We have heard a great deal about "the home front" lately. We have heard that the draft ought to be limited to protect the home front.

One of the bigwigs of isolation has even made up a kind of editorial slogan, or disorderly prose poem, about "the muscle and the heart."

You will remember that last Fall, while we were enjoying our annual argument over wiping out overtime pay, there was little mention of the home front.

Now this business of shifting the base of current argument about the war from the war front to the home front, and back again, according to convenience, is one of the prime examples of obscuration in our time.

The thing is rich in examples: We must not send too much food, etc., to our allies, for the sake of the home front.

Further, and am I having fun? Mr. Roosevelt and other civilians should not interfere in military decisions, but leave them to military men.

I was about to write a paragraph saying that this process might be entirely innocent, but I've been struck by the number of times the argument runs the other way.

Figures Talk

Aid To Russia

New York Times

BEAVERBROOK and others complain about the allegedly small percentage of Allied production that has gone to Russia.

In other words, the Allies have given Russia the tank equipment of three-quarters of a million Nazi troops a greater stock of planes.

What should we think if a Lieutenant-colonel broadcast an announcement that the Continent would be invaded tomorrow morning at an unexpected point which could not be revealed, but would be known to the public?

The result of this hint was to fill East Side shoe stores, open on Sunday, with frantically buying customers eager to beat the gun. This is precisely the result that Fascist Germany might expect to avoid by freezing shoe sales prior to rationing.

Side Glances



"I told you when you were doing all that buying that you were getting too much of this darned corned beef hash!"

Li'l Flower

"In a few hours" came the ingratiating voice of the Mayor over the "noon" on Sunday, the CPA will announce the freezing of interest.

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It will often be necessary for Washington to apprise local officials immediately in advance of similar actions, and in cooperation with keeping their confidence in the information confidential.

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