



THE CHARLOTTE NEWS

And Evening Chronicle

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

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Burke Davis, Editor
General Manager
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W. C. Dowd, 1867-1927

The daily edition of The Charlotte News was established 1888. The Evening Chronicle (established 1891) 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

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

SUBSCRIPTION RATES
By carrier: 20 cents a week; one month, 87 cents. By mail: One month \$1.00; three months, \$2.80; six months, \$5.20; one year, \$10.40.

MONDAY, MARCH 29, 1943

Victory Closer

New British Gains Put
Rommel in Real Danger

It is yet too early to evaluate the sweeping new gains by the British Eighth Army in the East and the American Fifth in the South—but if they can be held, and the present trend continues, then the day of Von Arnim and Rommel in Tunisia are surely numbered. The wide break in the so-called Mareth Line is not likely to afford the Germans a chance to close it this time, and the approach of the Americans at the same time brings the enemy very near the jaws of a trap from which he should not escape.

The chase to the sea, of course, is still not on; the Axis armor, as has been often suggested, is still powerful enough to exact a fearful price of the attackers who storm through the defenses into the crescent to meet the cream of Nazi troops. The most intense phase of the struggle has just begun, but the significant factor is that, for the first time, the battle goes very well for the United Nations.

In the early phases of the battle, Rommel's veterans pushed around their inexperienced opponents almost as they wished; but when the pressure grew from all directions, there could be but one answer. This week, we may be a great deal closer to victory in Africa than we have suspected. It is on the way, and when the Nazis are chased into the sea, and have been forced to repay a part of their victory at Dunkirk, the ultimate battle will begin, the assault upon the Continent.

Powder Puff

Blackout Violators Should
Be Prosecuted as Usual

A course of thought we don't profess to understand is that which leads civilian defense officials to let down easy, for the first time, blackout violators of last week's surprise blackout. We can't imagine how the thought first started, but we deplore its existence. We have been told, in whispers, that more than a few prominent citizens were involved, and even that several leading civilian defense workers were caught in the net. Without taking our share of stock in those rumors, we feel like demanding that prosecution of the new violators proceed as in the past.

Just because there are some 100 of them instead of a very few is no reason to withhold action. Those who were so unthinking or unfortunate as to be caught in previous, pre-announced blackouts were handled as police cases, as least, such violators endangered the safety of the entire population, and should have been meted out their punishments. They were, and only when the surprise blackout caught the city napping was there talk of passing up the penalties.

And the fact that there was no previous announcement of Thursday's blackout is no excuse for lenience; indeed, raiders, if and when they come, will give little warning. Citizens will not be able to read of their coming in the papers, if civilian defense is to be taken seriously at all, the violators in this case must be prosecuted just as all others before them.

The numerous cases of negligence in leaving lights unattended at home is proof enough that Charlotte is not completely sold on the defense program; and it took a surprise blackout to prove that point. We fail to see why violators in this first real test are any less guilty than those apprehended in the past.

True Sacrifice

Great New Bond Drive Gives
Americans Chance to Serve

Not all the tasks of men and women in this war are surrounded by drama and glamour. There must be young men who carry the battle to enemies all over the world, in all climates; they are those who bear the sharp weapon of the national will in the field. There must be men and women at home to make the weapons of war, to spin the lines military men call logistics. And there must be millions of those who are willing to sacrifice something from their own everyday lives that the cause of victory might be aided. In this war, it is true, to Americans in this war, it

an old, familiar word, but it means little to most families. There are those who have given up sons and husbands; they know sacrifice. There are others who have given up their ways of life—but the millions are untouched. Today they begin meat rationing, but there will be plenty of food for health and life. The American family has not begun to suffer, nor to fight, nor to sacrifice. There must be, soon, real sacrifice. If not, then America's part in the swift liberation of the world will not be sure and certain.

The gigantic second bond drive, to open April 12 with a goal of thirteen billions of dollars, is a responsibility upon us all. This time, there must not be bond-buying out of surplus income, and shedding of a little wartime fat. This time, with taxes and increasing hardships having trimmed the income of the average man, the buying of bonds will mean more of a sacrifice, and those bonds must be bought.

Now we approach the time of greatest expenditures; of lives, of equipment, and of money. The money of the people, small and large, must be poured out in a great stream into the Treasury. America is spending more than other nations on its great effort at war because its effort is the greater, because it faces the stupendous task of battling enemies all around the globe. The people have yet to realize the scope of the task, and they have yet to realize that their part must be one of real sacrifice.

When the time comes those bonds must be bought, regardless of how it hurts; and the expenditure of the last dollars now will be the best program of investment in humanity and the future. Hereafter, the purchase of bonds has called for no unselfishness or sacrifice from most of the people. Now, that the time has come when it will hurt, we may hear the true answer of Americans. They cannot fail.

Black Market

Americans Held One in Open
To Usher in Meat Rationing

So far as we're concerned, the last people on earth likely to realize there is a war going on are Americans. Dedicated to the most gigantic task of any belittled, the United States is giving a good imitation of callous neglect of the state of the world, as if its people expected to complete that great task with no discomfort or effort on their part. The way in which the nation's housewives ushered in meat rationing is, for example, an indication of the spirit in which too many of our fellow countrymen are accepting the new times in which we live. If the German propaganda machine had need of ammunition to turn against the United States, it had only to hear the strange story of Cleveland on Saturday, where some 50,000 people took part in a meat market mob scene.

Nothing in the whole program of rationing has shown us so clearly that a tragically large number of Americans are still determined that this war and its evils shall be for their neighbors, and not for themselves. All over the country, millions of men and women rushing into stores to buy all the meat in sight without any other reason than the compelling reason of fear. These are the greedy—and it's not just a little minority—who would deny the whole principles of a rationing program. These are the troublemakers who did their best to enlarge the shadow of a food shortage before new rationing could guarantee meat for all.

North Carolina and Charlotte had more than their share of the selfish we talked with one grocer late Saturday night who said he had sold 3,000 pounds of cheese during the week, and many hundreds of hams that he as yet had no record. This is evidence that rationing for the good of all the people means nothing to Americans who acted instead as if this war needed more than anything else in the world was a good, stiff dose of war close to the battle lines, where nations are tested in fire and blood rather than in packed grocery stores.

For us this national reaction marked the positive failure, not only of a rationing program, but of an ideal. It waves still the flag of isolationism, as if the people would not part of this war, at least for themselves. It stands as a proof that America does not believe it is its brother's equal, much less his keeper.

First Things First

Churchill Builds Soundly For Peace

By Dorothy Thompson

WASHINGTON
WINSTON CHURCHILL spoke for 45 minutes, of which only fifteen were devoted to presenting a picture of the future Europe and the world.

Foreign policy entered into the speech only as a means of providing a frame of reference for its main purpose. For Mr. Churchill knows that whatever the United Kingdom is able to achieve for its citizens, will depend upon a participation of the world at large, and especially of Europe.

Should Great Britain be compelled to begin the post-war period with another armaments race, she could obviously not at the same time, finance such a plan as that envisaged in the Beveridge Report as, indeed, Sir William himself points out. There are prerequisites for a prosperous, well-housed, well-fed, and universally-secure Britain, and they are the same prerequisites as hold for every other country. There is no sense in building domestic dream castles to the exclusion of the international situation.

Therefore, the brief time devoted to an outline of the post-war international situation was mainly for the purpose of illustrating this truth. To criticize this part of his speech on the ground that he did not deal with every country, and only sketch broad outlines, is carping and petty.

Since Mr. Churchill was especially concerned in this speech with Britain, he concentrated his attention on Europe and not upon the Far East. He described himself as a "good European." And he realized that any solution of the European question depends upon the collaboration of the United States and Russia.

Churchill sees Europe as an entity, geographic and cultural, with a history and traditions common to all Europeans. He sees it also as a civilization whose peculiar and glorious contributions have come out of its manifoldness and diversity, as its wars have also sprung from the same sources. He wants to see a unity of Europe, but not a Europe aligned against Britain or Russia, but with the integration of both. He wants a unity which is not monolithic and imposed by any one nation, but which unites the two principles of freedom and equality.

Following this concept, he cannot advocate a pan-European excluding Britain and Russia, and must provide against Europe being dominated by the hegemony of either. To avoid such a hegemony two courses would be open: to dismember the existing great powers and to Balkanize the whole of Europe. This is an attractive picture for those who wish to rule or ruin Europe.

The other is to create a Europe in which the smaller powers do not offer continual temptations to aggression from the great ones. He therefore proposes confederations of the smaller states, when confederated, would represent such population, resources, and strength, as to give them equal representation in a Council of Europe, with the great states.

He does not see this as something fixed and limited for all time. He wishes to create a pattern and climate in which the idea of confederation can grow and lead eventually to a genuine world organization of the peoples. Therefore, he balanced the Council of Europe with a Council of Asia, to follow the defeat of Japan, and made it clear that neither would be possible without the collaboration of the Americas.

No Wonder It Makes Such Slow Progress

—By Dorman Smith



Not Over Yet

The War Stretches On

By Raymond Clapper

WASHINGTON
IT seems to be writing too much about plans for after the war; it is not because I think the war is almost over. Nothing in sight suggests an early end, not even in Europe.

We have been in North Africa almost five months and it may be two or three months more before we have driven the Axis out of the desert. As Secretary of War Stimson says, we may expect favorable progress in North Africa but we must pay for it with heavy casualties. Many more heroic Allied soldiers will die in the hard fighting that is still ahead there.

Our ideas of the speed of warfare have been influenced unduly by the early German blitz sweeps, the quick victories in Norway, in Holland, Belgium and France. A better guide would be the long, slow, grim swinging of the tides back and forth in Russia for nearly two years, since Hitler marched in.

Our preparations here at home, we must assume that the war will go on for some time. It was put very well this week by one of the officials of the Sun Shipbuilding Co. He said we ought to stop considering the war as an emergency and instead consider it as our way of life. That is what we do. We will be more effective if we do the same.

That means a vast amount of tightening up. It means that we can't go on the shipbuilding way, which I visited this week, builds three-fourths of all American tankers. These people are under pressure to more than double last year's production of 40 tankers. They have 30,000 people working. They need 10,000 more. They hire three people while looking one for the draft.

They have only about a thousand women working, and they should be training toward using 30,000 women—10 times their present employment. That.

at least, is what will have to be done if the manpower strain is to be carried over a long period. There is no work more essential than building tankers, in the race to keep the German submarines from choking off fuel to Allied armies in the Atlantic. But men are being taken steadily for the Army, and women must be trained to substitute if production is not to suffer. That's the story all over America.

A long war means that we can less afford to tolerate the kind of thing that has been disclosed this week. The production of defective steel, covered up under false records, is the kind of thing that needs to be cracked down on so hard that it will discourage others from taking any chances of that kind. The fantastic profits of ship operators, charging all that the traffic will bear, are certainly not to be condoned at a time when we are trying to induce the coal miners and the grain farmers to refrain from charging all the traffic will bear. The sticky attitude of the shipowners down here, who haughtily spurn suggestions that they disgorge some of their fat profits, on the ground that they are within their legal rights, is not going to help in winning the battle against inflation.

The fact that this is apt to be a long war makes it all the more imperative that the battle against inflation be waged relentlessly. The increasing shortage of goods increases the pressure of inflation. The longer the war goes on, the more steam is built up behind inflation.

Fortunately the Treasury Department is going to try to stem off a huge hole of excess purchasing by the new 13-billion-dollar war loan. If this campaign is successful it will draw down some of the inflationary pressure. But the chances would have been much better if the pay-as-you-go tax plan had been put through so that people would know just where they stood in planning their tax payments.

Quote, Unquote

HAD General Douglas MacArthur been Australian-born and served in the Australian Army, he could have done no more for the defense of Australia than he has. MacArthur has not only been a great organizer, his presence here has been an inspiring force. —Premier John Curtin of Australia.

Labor is not always right, but it is improper to make accusations against labor unless you know the cause. Shipbuilder Henry J. Kaiser.

I believe all reasonable men with sufficient military background to prepare the rationing must realize the importance of both day and night bombing—in short, the ability to strike when the enemy is building his defenses. The only way to equip it—Maj.-Gen. Ira

C. Enker, Eighth Air Force commander.

We must avoid destructive, impractical, and ineffective peace which will only lay the foundation for another war. —Alf M. Landon.

I ask no more of life than to be able to see the miserable, resounding fall of the vulgar, intentional fudger of Berlin and of his Austrian system—Czech President Eduard Benes.

I was warned that I would be disappointed.

Bible Thought

There is no blessedness in a filthy life. Utter corruption and shame is the end: Blessed are they who are undefiled in the way. —Psalm 119:1.

The last war led to the liberation of nationalism, which was a necessary and inevitable historical development. But the liberated nationalities depended for their existence on the Great Powers. Thus some strong, some weak, with responsibilities which they did not desire, while other strong states saw an opportunity for expansion by abnegation.

The principles advocated by Churchill is of self-responsibility made possible by confederations of the smaller states, and a common responsibility assumed by the world powers with direct interests in Europe. It is for this reason obviously that he did not mention China. War, though he foresees an ultimate world organization, he realizes that he realized that the difficulties of Europe alone; others which concern Europe, Britain, and Russia; others which concern the world, and the United States; and finally others which concern the entire world.

Those who are indulging in the wish-dream that by a few catchwords a new world order will be brought about overnight will take little comfort from Mr. Churchill's speech. It is the speech of a responsible statesman, who knows the difficulties ahead and the contradictions that have to be overcome.

Mr. Churchill, for recreation, likes to lay bricks. This is the speech of a good bricklayer, who knows you can't put on the ornaments until the foundations are sound. He is planning a structure strong enough to be extended by future generations. He does not think those of us now living are going to accomplish it all.

(To be continued.)

Ruml, Ruml

Bookkeeping?

By Samuel Crafton

NEW YORK
MY feeling about the Ruml plan is that it is important, but not that important. I do not see why a tax scheme which even its sponsors describe as "a mere bookkeeping transaction" should be a major issue for the cleavage between the two major parties during a major war. Why need mere bookkeeping go to our heads?

Yet it is happening. The Republicans (as shown by their pro-Ruml) and the Democrats are either anti-Ruml or else are acting like whirling dervishes on the issues. And there is something fake about the curiously high temperature of this argument. Why these mad rages? Why these magnificent rages, these spectacular verbal fireworks over what is, at most, a technical tax reform?

The opposition now describes every man, woman and child in America as crying for the Ruml plan; the Treasury as standing only to benefit by it; and the Administration as opposing it out of sheer dog-headedness. In fact, the opposition has, by now, made far too good a case for the Ruml plan, so good that it can only explain away the Administration's opposition on the ground that it has gone stark, staring crazy.

The Administration, countering, calls the Ruml plan (which is a plan to collect this year's income taxes on this year's income, not on last year's income) a plan to let the millionaires escape without paying taxes for last year. But millionaires will pay just as much money and, in any case, the Administration is opposing it out of sheer dog-headedness. Mr. Ruml's own quiet acceptance of the principle of a windfall tax to make up inequities has gone almost unnoticed. Only in the case of a millionaire who cunningly decides to die early this year would the estate have a year's income taxes, and a special inheritance tax could take care of that.

So the plan is not nearly so bad as Administration describes it to be. Remarkably enough, it is not nearly so good as its friends find it to be, either. It is still my point that a suspiciously big fight is being made over a curiously small issue, and I will get back to that point, soon.

The big pro-Ruml argument is that the plan puts us on a "current" basis, paying taxes on income as earned this year, not on the dead-and-gone income of last year. If so, it works backward, too. Any intelligent taxpayer can be his own mere bookkeeper and pay his own taxes. Since the Government is on the short end of this arrangement, it could even be argued that it is the Government which is always a year behind. The taxpayer is a year ahead.

But again, why the great heat of debate, when even the defenders of the plan call it mere bookkeeping? Why so much noise about mere bookkeeping?

As so often, one finds the answer in the curiously limited role assigned to the opposition, even during war, under the American party system. The opposition has no formal tasks. It has almost nothing to do but make a rumble about Ruml. The Republicans might well have been invited, formally, to participate in shaping a national tax policy during the crisis. But they have been doomed to work from the outside. The Ruml hubbub, so safe and so irrelevant, is a godsend (A godsend to isolationism, last; see how they relate to this issue). What should have been a minor squabble among technicians becomes a national issue, as the opposition seeks to prove that it is alive. Not that it has been dead, but, gleefully arguing that the Administration is crazy. That it is not good for our unity.

There was no way to ask Republicans inside the house, so that they need shout and sing in the streets to prove that they are extant, and active?

Side Glances



"I was wondering if you'd speed up my induction notice—then my parents wouldn't find out I'd never have graduated from high school this year anyway!"