

THE CHARLOTTE NEWS

And Evening Chronicle

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W. C. Dowd, 1965-1927

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WEDNESDAY, APRIL 14, 1943

Keep It Up

Bond Drive Started Well; It Must Be Carried On

The first response to the second war bond drive, though a small figure presented as indefinite and inconclusive, has been hailed by Government officials as the greatest sign of co-operation yet exhibited by the American people. It is said that that is so; the Government debt now stands over \$125 billions, and may rise to \$210 billions under law. The money of the people (and not that of the banking houses) must buy most of the new bond issue, and the new bond issue is a vital part of our war.

But there must be no letdown in the second drive—there will be others to come—simply because the start was auspicious. All the powers of the American press are thrown behind the campaign because national security demands it. Success must be achieved in every state. It must be carried through to a successful finish, and it must not be considered completed because of a spectacular beginning. It must go all the way.

The only way, of course, in which the nation's quota is to be met is in the meeting of the local quotas. Money from Mecklenburg, for example, is going to be as important as bigger money in bigger cities. This drive is the responsibility of every community in every state. It must be carried through to a successful finish, and it must not be considered completed because of a spectacular beginning. It must go all the way.

We're of two minds. We believe Mr. Wallace's vision of a post-war world is more alluring, but that Clara Luce is prettier.

Real Dangers

Victory Gardeners Should Go About Business With Care

For thousands of ambitious Victory gardeners in the more reasonable climates of the country, the homegrown food has given itself over to the fostering of seed, the sucking of tender plants. It does its duty as it has through the forgotten centuries; and now the time has come when the gardeners should have been warned in the beginning: there is no magic about raising backyard vittles. They come hard; the glory of fresh vegetables on the table is not easy won.

There is the hoe, and the blister, and the run on the back, and the sweat on the brow, and the rub on the neck. And there is the everlasting grass and weed. Things have not changed since the new gardeners were youngsters, and they engaged in the labor—except that the gardeners themselves. It requires more than sunshine and fresh air to put the bloom on the full face of a tomato. Gardening, in short, is still hard work, war or no war.

The warnings are coming in now, but too late. A New York physician says: "We must go slow in this Victory Garden business. It can aggravate existing ailments and is likely to finish you." This is no plea against patriotic fervor, nor a condemnation of Victory gardening as a Summer occupation for the good of family and nation; this is a statement to the ailing from the good doctor. Hard work with the hoe is not for all.

There should be, also, warning for the lazy, the slow of movement, the lethargy of spirit. For them, the seed catalogues were ever eye-filling, the burning heat of July tragic and slowing. This year, with patriotism and the urge to win, planting, they may set new records for hitting off more than they can chew. The heat, the grass and the bugs are enemies of the nation—and allies of the layabouts who have, ere long, reverted to true character.

New Threat

Australia In Danger, But The Defense Is Ready Now

Yesterday's warning from the Southwest Pacific was the clearest signal yet that Japan has firmly entrenched herself again in the area, and is preparing to strike a major blow from the arc of islands about Australia. The first of the warnings came many months ago, when the Japs were discovered moving into Timor and Ambonia in force. That 100 enemy bombers came at Port Moresby, and about a third of them fell, is proof enough that the Jap wants to

make the fight, and that his reception will be hot this time.

Australian leaders still speak as if they feared the worst for their country—and the proximity of such a large enemy force may be reason enough—but the danger is not nearly so great as it was a year ago. This time, when the Japs move, they will meet heavy resistance. Regardless of the numbers of troops they have concentrated in a new invasion area, they must expect to suffer more huge losses. The enemy is apparently unable now to secure air superiority, and that will cost him dearly as he attempts to move ships and men.

Perhaps the day when American fighting men can be turned upon the Japanese in great numbers is far off, but those who are already there, though a small percentage of our total, will suffice to snuff out the new threat to Australia. There has not been an occasion since the first days of unpreparedness, when the Japs have not been made to suffer in combat. We have suffered losses of our own, but on a far smaller scale. Superiority of men and weapons has been enough to offset appalling odds.

In the time, apparently near, when Japan's horde swarms out of the new bases, there is sure to be bitter fighting, with the Japs superior in numbers. Again, however, the victory may be expected to be won by the Allies. Henceforth, Japan will seldom win a decision, though the months be long until her demise.

We don't know that it can be said of every member of this Congress that he is his own man, but when the rubber stamps have become slightly blurred.

The Tribune

Its Opposition Still Amounts Almost To Open Treason

The Chicago Tribune, still the nation's leading anti-American newspaper, continues to carry forth its bold program of attempting to discredit the Administration's every move, to offer its spurious doubts of our foreign policy as concerns our Allies, to whip up sectional rancors into pictures of revolt against the President.

In one batch of clippings, anonymously sent by some Tribune enemy wide enough to let the words bespeak their own conviction, we found these outbursts:

1. South Seethes Under the Ash of Bureaucracy: a story from New Orleans stating that the South was in revolt against everything bearing the brand of the Administration.

2. New Deal Tries to Rush Thru Gestapo Bill: a story that the new security bill, providing the death penalty for hostile acts against the United States at war—a law similar to those in effect in every other country in the world.

3. A story depicting the Government as the worst of food hoarders, picturing quartermasters as buying wildly, with a greedy eye for the best of the food for Government, and waste.

4. An editorial aimed at the old target of Col. Bertie McCormick, Soviet Russia. In part:

The United States is furnishing Russia with enormous quantities of supplies, with an aggregate value of many hundreds of millions of dollars. In so doing we are depriving our own soldiers of weapons they are clamoring for. In the course of the food we are sending to the Russian Army and civilians is taken from the mouths of our own people. We have every right to ask the Russians as partners in the joint enterprise to put an end to the friendly relations with Japan and treat Japan as an enemy. At present the Russians are furnishing Japan with food from the South Fisheries, priceless war information for operations against Alaska, and, there is reason to believe, steel as well. We should demand an end to all this kind of assistance to Germany's ally and our enemy.

It is the same now as before; we can't think of one reason for The Tribune, in war or peace.

A pair of western holdup men allowed a victim 75 cents to get his laundry. It is to be hoped this manly example will not be lost on our tax planners.

As for Italian morale, they say it's so low the superstitious now whistle when they pass the Duce.

Press Sercility

FDR Makes An Error

By Raymond Clapper

SOME may wonder why the newspapers are concerned over the wish of President Roosevelt to keep the first big United Nations conference closed against the press. It is a conference concerning food, and a considerable portion of the work will be technical and of comparatively little general interest.

I myself do not expect to report the conference or even be in the country when it is held. Yet I am very much concerned over the attempt President Roosevelt has made to exclude the press from all contact with representatives at this conference.

I am concerned about it because I hope there will be many United Nations conferences and I want the people to know about them and to share in them. I hope that nations will be meeting in this way for generations to come. I hope the people of all countries will have more and more control over their Governments. I hope we are to have an increasingly democratic world, and that the nations of this democratic world will solve their problems meeting together in friendly conferences and not ever try to solve them by the method of mass murder that has been resorted to up to now.

If the people of all countries—and I think this applies unquestionably in Germany and Italy and perhaps in Japan—could have had their way there would have been no war this time.

This week we are paying honor to the memory of our patriot saint of democracy, Thomas Jefferson. He believed that laws and institutions must go hand in hand with the progress of the human judgment, rested in the heart of the people, in acceptance of the decisions of the majority, in freedom of religion, the press, freedom of discussion, and in the preservation of civil rights.

In the preservation of all this nothing is more basic than free discussion. And the press is one of the principal agencies of free discussion.

There is no military reason why the press should not have free access to the first United Nations conference, which is to open May 28 at Hot Springs, Va. Yet President Roosevelt by his own personal direction, against the earnest protest of Elmer Davis of OWI and of others in the Government, has persisted in refusing arrangements that will treat newspaper and radio representatives—who after all are merely eyes and ears for the American people—like moral lepers.

They are to be excluded from any contact with delegates. A newspaper man who takes his work

seriously considers that he is honor bound to learn as much and report as much about public affairs as is possible. He makes only one reservation and that is that he must be guided at all times by the requirements of national security. Yet newspaper men are to be denied access to the hotel where the delegates will live.

Thomas Jefferson once said that if a people had to be without newspapers or without Government, a democratic people needs both. Certainly good Government needs good newspapers. What was true in Jefferson's time while the young United States were learning to walk is equally true now when the United Nations are taking their first steps.

Mr. Roosevelt thinks of the press as a nuisance, or as an irritant, or as offering a medium through which mischief might be done during the United Nations Food Conference. A totally irresponsible and malicious press could do perhaps fatal damage. But the American press and the British press have shown that they are not as a whole either irresponsible or malicious. On both sides of the Atlantic the press has observed voluntary censorship, and beyond that has contributed energetically toward assisting with the war.

Surely Mr. Roosevelt does not think the press should omit all comment on the work of the United Nations Food Conference. But such comment must be based on independent newspaper reporting at Hot Springs itself. What confidence can be inspired and what useful comment can be made on the basis of official communications alone? The very thought of it is absurd to any newspaper man who knows how communications are written and how little is said in them. We know how they are distorted and how they must be distorted to cover up even healthy and moderate differences of opinion. Only says believe that official communications tell the whole truth.

If the press is to be thrown out into the gutter at the first United Nations conference at Hot Springs the press may as well prepare to be similarly parked at future United Nations conferences where more difficult questions will be discussed.

I have never thought Mr. Roosevelt had any doubts against the press. I do not know now what he has. I do think individual liberties, in his judgment this time, and is insisting upon a precedent that might, as times goes on, easily become a most vicious menace to free discussion in America.

His own OWI people say privately that this Hot Springs arrangement is bound to break down in practice because it is so mistaken. I hope and believe they are correct.

—By Dorman Smith

Let's Hold This Battle Line, Too



It's Double Talk

The Battle For Votes

By Samuel Grafton

THE political game for next year will be to look as many voters as possible, even if you have to bait some of your hooks with fish and others with meat. But the Republicans are proclaiming that isolation is finished, most of them, are for a return to what they call states' rights.

They are in favor of closer relations with Britain, but more remote relations with Washington. They grant that the world is shrinking, but they contend that this country is getting bigger. They admit that the world must solve its problems one, but they hold that America can solve its problems in fractions. They are turning outward and inward, simultaneously, a contortion perhaps attended with risk.

The result is a curious double-vision, in which the victim sees new American air-lanes spanning the globe of a shrunken world, while each town and state in this country makes its own rules as to labor, competition, regulation, etc. It is a vision big as the world and smaller in its own right, a large head on a small neck, and a large body on a small base.

Another double-baiting of the hook takes place when it is argued (not only by Republicans) that this time they come marching home, and also that they must weed out the alphabet. In other words, we must do more of the things we have done in the past, and we must fire those officials who alone can take care of them. We must cultivate the garden of democracy, but down with the hoe. The intention is to do it, but by telepathy, and for free.

Visitin' Around

Rumble Seat Rider

Hunter Creek Item.

Marshall News-Record

Roy Waddell and his dad

are playing on Hunter Creek this week.

And He Probs Feels

Like Something Else

(Bridgetown Item)

Morganton News-Herald

Pink Rumbell is sick with something like flu.

Names Make News

(Buggaboo Item)

North Wilkesboro News-Record

North Wilkesboro News-Record

Mr. Ted Henderson has been

heard from and getting along

fine and likes his job fine.

He is still in the Army.

Who You Sorry For,

Guy Or Th' Army?

(North Carolina Item)

North Carolina News-Record

Miss Ruth Linney attended service

at Briar Creek Sunday, walking

down the aisle for assistance in

buying a farm, that will not count as a change.

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