

THE CHARLOTTE NEWS

And Evening Chronicle
Published Every Afternoon Except Sunday By
The News Publishing Company, Inc.
W. C. Dowd, Jr., President
Burke Davis, Editor
and General Manager
Mrs. Dowd Jones, Secretary.

By carrier: 20 cents a week; one month, 67 cents. By mail: One month
\$7c; three months, \$20; six months, \$52; one year, \$104.00.

SATURDAY, MAY 29, 1943

Mr. Carpenter

His Court Shows Highest Percentage of "Innocents"

We were prepared when we heard that the report of Attorney General Harry McMillan on the 21 State judicial districts was on the way, for anything. It would not have been a surprise to us to learn that District Fourteen, comprised of Gaston and Mecklenburg, had led the State in all kinds of inefficient performance, and fallen behind miserably in high accomplishment. As a matter of fact, Old Fourteen and John Carpenter didn't do as badly as we'd feared. We weren't at the bottom of the heap. Not quite.

It was close, very close. Whereas the average for all districts in the State was something less than 16 per cent of nonprosecutors, Fourteen went better than 25 per cent. Whereas the State averaged less than 2 per cent of inefficient, Fourteen was up to 14.4 per cent. And whereas the State as a whole convicted 8,262 defendants and nonprosecuted 2,216—old Fourteen had a ratio of 117 to 325.

There is still, and will continue to be until there is a realignment of solicitors in the State in 1947, the most glaring example of inefficient or unearliest stewardship of court affairs in the Fourteenth District. Solicitor John Carpenter still finds it more difficult to win convictions than other State solicitors; and he still finds it easier than most to get acquittals. He still prosecutes more cases in wholesale lots, and to ask for acquittals.

The District had far too many cases for one Solicitor to handle last year—a total of 1,260. But the cases were not so many nor the pressure so great that any such shabby record as Mr. Carpenter marked up can be excused, explained or tolerated. Conditions in his court have not improved over the long years of his tenure. And we think it safe to say, from a long, long record, that they never will improve so long as he handles the docket.

Memory is not so short but that it can recall the day that Solicitor Carpenter hoisted a great stack of papers upon the desk, and asked in his most affable fashion that those cases—some 300 of them—be nonprosecuted. Times are not so good in that end of the Court business now, but the great margin by which the picture of Mecklenburg and Gaston to lead all other districts in nonprosecution and acquittals and trail in convictions is one more item of proof that the affairs of justice are not being properly administered in Criminal Court.

Counting Up

Ralph McDonald Woes Voters With Pictures of a Surplus

At least Dr. Ralph McDonald, who's already running at full speed in preparation for next year's gubernatorial race, has one advantage on Candidate Gregg Cherry. He knows what the surplus in the State Treasury is going to be this year, next year, and forevermore. For purposes of speaking earnestly with the voters, he quotes dollars-and-cents figures on the surplus as of July, this year, and as of the next biennium. We don't know how he does it, but he does it boldly, as if the condition of tomorrow's fiscal affairs was as certain as a sunup.

We don't know who the Doctor is convincing, with this talk of the money well have tomorrow—and this we should realize, because he has surveyed the educational system all around, and generally improve the State. But we think he's trying to rile up the good, tight-lipped business men of North Carolina with the picture of a big pile of money, rustling and catherine dust in State vaults when it should be out working hard in the good old Tar Heel fashion.

It could be that the Doctor aims to convince a parcel of folks that the State has too darned much money, anyhow, and that it should not only be put to some good use now, but that taxes should be reduced as well. That was a popular double-view of many an Assemblyman before the convening of the last Legislature, but it was quickly poked full of holes by a conservative Governor throughout and his Council of State. To Governor North, it was going to mean a surplus funds desperately. So despondently that we're again Ralph McDonald or anyone else making a political use out of counting them up, so that

the highest estimate wins the governorship.

If it comes to that kind of a guessing game, we'd advise Iron Major Gregg Cherry to put in a low estimate. For all the glamor of talking big money to a crowd of voters, we've an idea the State would sooner hear about something else.

The Strap

Congress, Eyeing FDR, May Want to Hold Future Presidents

Senator Josiah Bailey may have little or no hope for his proposed amendment to limit the terms of American presidents to two, but he could scarce have picked a better time to fetch up the question—not in all the nation's history. Just at a time when Franklin Roosevelt is being lambasted for charges of usurpation of powers, of steering us to bureaucracy, of favoring Labor, of favoring the Farm Bloc, of wailing the war effort, Senator Josiah hoves up "with the old idea" that the President of the United States, despite his exalted office, should wear a halter.

There will be a great deal of insincere support for the measure from Congressmen who care not a whoop for the tested good government in the country—but only want a chance to go on the record against any of Franklin Roosevelt's accomplishments. And there will be a great many more Congressmen who, out of the old Southern-Western mist of extended powers, will vote for the amendment as of ancient tradition. To them, it will seem something of a statement of states' rights.

Oh, there will be those who like to remember back to 1800 and the springing of Term Three upon the people; they like still to wag their heads and point their finger and say that there's the spot where the United States got off the track. Roosevelt has been in there too long. We need a new regime. Those are the men who plan to buck against Term Four (which won't be affected by the Bailey amendment), who aim to resist in every way they can.

But Senator Bailey needs a two-thirds vote in Congress and a three-fourths approval by State Legislatures—and that's a long, hard pull. Nonetheless, it will be fascinating to watch the jockeying of positions on the proposal, particularly of those in opposition, who look at Franklin Roosevelt with the half-blinded eyes of men judging fellow men in their own time, and decide that, hereafter, there will be no longer term American presidents. Two, they decide, is enough, but they decide it on a basis of Roosevelt alone. The future leaders of the country in future years of future peace will be, like it or not, heirs to the line of Franklin Roosevelt's stubborn jaw.

Installation

Tunisian Casualties Only Fraction of Europe's Toll

The announcement that the Allies suffer some 70,000 casualties in the North African campaign was not intended to jar the people of the United States. That figure, stacked against the 323,000 killed, wounded and captured by the Axis, seems gratifyingly small. But the American losses were also very low, listed as 12,558 killed and 21,124 dead. But that is only to say, that figure, that cooperation between three big Allied armies, fighting under a complete air cover, greatly reduced the carnage. When the German tank and storming of Europe, the toll will be sickeningly higher.

It is to be remembered that the Axis divisions in Africa fought on foreign soil, almost without hope of victory from the moment they retreated before El Alamein. And the Axis divisions caught in the Tunisian triangle were few; in the defense of Europe they may be numbered by the hundreds. There is still a great price to be paid, and as the armies of victory push on, the price for the final drive, there must be a realization of the costs of their advance.

For all that the bastions are being washed down by air power, through the pounding of many a mortar and the rear, the walls must still be breached, and openings cleared in the face of murderous fire. In the late stages of the campaign for Europe, certainly, the Allies will be expected to greatly exceed our own; for the final domination and a superiority of weapons on our side will tip the balance fearfully.

The Comintern Passes

Stalin Played It Straight

By Dorothy Thompson

WASHINGTON AS WE have seen, the evolution of the Comintern dates from the coming to power of Stalin, when it became solely an instrument to avert, successful war against Russia. Stalin's theory was that capitalist-imperialist countries in combination would attack Russia.

He believed that Munich was confirmation of this. Immediately the pacifist activities of the Comintern began in all countries. It was Stalin's greatest concern then, to split the "capitalist alliance," even by signing "pacts of friendship" with Hitler. In this case Stalin behaved as any shrewd nationalist leader would behave, but not backing this move revealed themselves as exclusively concerned with the welfare of the Soviet Union, even at the sacrifice of every revolutionary principle of their own countries.

But history did not develop, either according to the pattern of Trotsky or Stalin. It burst all preconceived theories. During the first eight months of the war Stalin suspected a "phony war." The Russians had the same concept as Hitler, that with the collapse of France, Britain would make a deal with Germany. So, during this period, American Communists were attempting to keep this country disarmed and out of the war.

Hess flew to England with the object of winning British collaboration for war against Russia. The speculation of Stalin, as well as of Hitler, was that Britain would act in the interests of the "ruling class," and not according to larger national interests. Both were wrong. But by the concept of the Comintern was also proved wrong. For the Comintern had accepted this split between Russia and "Europe" and had tried to exploit it. But the common British national interests prevailed.

Misestimating Britain, no less than Stalin, miscalculated Hitler, and too late to change his plans, Hitler attacked Russia and a "phony" Prime Minister immediately accepted an alliance with Russia. History will prove that this was the doom of Hitler. But it was also the doom of the Comintern. For with the attack on Russia, nothing happened as the Comintern had planned. The strongest Communist Party in Europe had been the German. But German workers did not arise to protect the Soviet Union, nor did they desert in masses on the Russian front.

In China, which has the strongest Communist Party of any country, the Communists fought Japan, but so did Chiang Kai-shek. In fact the history of this war has demonstrated that the defense of the Soviet Union does not depend upon Communist Parties in other countries, but upon the arrangements that the Soviet Union is able to make with other Governments. At the beginning of this war, Stalin had the choice of waging a nationalist war or a class war. In no appeal to the Russian people has Stalin ever doubted the non-capitalist interests of the country. But he has stressed the national interests of the Russian people against a foreign invader. He found in a show-down that Mother Russia was a better slogan than Father Marx.

Well, why then did he not dissolve the Comintern at the beginning of his war? No doubt he wanted to see whether the German proletariat would rise and make a revolution. Also, he remained suspicious of the Western countries. Would they really fight, or would they hope that Germany and Russia should exhaust each other, and then come in, either as sole victors, or even making a deal with Stalin purged of Hitler? The Comintern was doomed, in my belief, on the day that American troops landed in force in North Africa and Churchill and Roosevelt announced "Unconditional Surrender." (To be continued)

Side Glances



"I can't help being late—I've got some three-star mothers on my route, and when I haven't any mail for 'em, I have to stay and talk it over!"

Not A Dream

The World Is

By Samuel Crafton

SOME of the playboys in Congress are finding out that life is not a game. They threw out the Farm Security Administration in the House. They just picked it up and threw it out. It pleased them to do so they did it. They did it as casually and confidently as a man rejecting a necktie. They did it for a variety of reasons. They did it because to do so was part of the war against bureaucracy. They did it because the "plantation section" or sharecropping of the farm lobby thinks it is subversive to help farm families to own their own farms. Anyway, they did it.

It seemed to make sense, in the vast corridors of the House Office Building. But your hands, and there out came the playboys. Why not? Isn't that the issue? Isn't it? But a reaction is taking place. Reports have been floating back from the farm country. For some reason, farmers, real ones, with mud on their pants, don't quite see how it benefits them that to get credit for fertilizer, or to buy land, or to fix their teeth. That's odd. It seemed so clear in Washington.

More than 25 per cent of the nation's farmers have been helped by the Farm Security Administration at one time or another. About 8 per cent are being helped now. (These 8 per cent, money-poor farmers, are them, produced a third of the country's entire increase in milk production last year.) Not one of these farmers, strangely, seemed to have broken out into a rustic clog-dance on the kitchen floor, chorusing with joy like a mad thing, over that bold stroke in the House.

A Brave Congressman named Zimmerman, of Missouri (I call him brave because he has changed his mind in public, which is rare) has announced, after more hearings by a House Agriculture subcommittee, that Farm Security Administration has, after all, done a "swell" job. I don't know whether this reaction is coming fast enough to save the agency in the Senate, or in conference. But something has faded out of the bright Congressional colors, painted in primary colors, in which bureaucracy seemed to be the only issue. The Congressmen thought they were only amputating an excruciating tumor. It turns out they were molesting what one does.

It turns out that they were operating on real men, real women and real children. It turns out that life is real and life is earnest, out beyond Washington's city limits; that it is not a game; that it really matters what one does. Something of the same shock, the same flare-up of reality, occurred when the Secretary of the Interior Ecks appeared before the Senate Appropriations Committee to demand that an appropriation be restored for the pay of Robert Morris Lovett, Government secretary of the Virgin Islands. In this case, too, the House had acted casually, casually agreeing with Mr. Martin Dies that Mr. Lovett was subversive, casually wiping out his pay-check, casually branding him forever. As Mr. Ecks spoke, so shy and well, the man Lovett came to life.

One could see Lovett, the man, not the abstraction, whose fiscal throning has cut in the House. Lovett, now 72 years old, who gave his only son to die in Belleau Wood in the last war, a distinguished scholar and writer, a man who has certainly been a liberal, if not a radical, never a Communist, a man whose "subversion" has consisted of a love of the people so deep that he has spent 50 years fighting for reforms for them. The House had been playing a game with a name. When the man appeared, the game suddenly became rather horrid. And the world is real. And life is indeed earnest. And if you're a Congressman, you cannot cut a paper doll without wounding a man. There must be a check to some of those who feel that the whole world is just a gleeful debate, to find themselves surrounded by, engulfed in, this ocean of reality. It does matter. It does make a difference. The bright idea will be tested, out there, on the flesh of living men. Hold that hunch! The world is not a dream, dreamed up by Mr. Roosevelt. It really exists.

B Street Story

"Beat Roosevelt"

WASHINGTON—Probably one of the great liners of the world is John P. Monroe, alias Monroe Kaplan, principal figure in goings-on at the "Big Red House on R Street," rascals for lobbyists and war businessmen who dined and whined some of the most heart-greasing Washington, including Secretary Knox and other big-wigs. Among the guests were generals, Cabinet members, officers and members of Congress, many of whom have since been busy explaining how they happened to be in the military. A people of questionable reputation, Monroe is a glib talker and a people promoter as Washington has seen in many days. He has told the Louisiana businessman-like tales, the tall tales which he related to a reporter for the St. Louis Post-Dispatch.

In a copyrighted article, the Post-Dispatch said this week that Monroe, in a four-hour interview, insisted the people at the R Street house are not interested in war contracts or other money-making schemes, but "are a small but potent coalition of wealthy Republicans and insurgent Democrats who are determined to defeat President Roosevelt for a fourth term."

Monroe was quoted as boasting of having obtained large contributions from wealthy publishers in New York and Chicago, an automobile manufacturer and others who list their so-and-so in the White House. One publisher, Monroe was reported to have said, was so anxious to beat out the literally forced Monroe (aka \$5,000,000) that he had a strategy necessary to beat Roosevelt. "Monroe," the article asserted, "indicated that certain newspaper executives and columnists fighting the Administration have been his guests at gatherings devoted almost exclusively to a discussion of the strategy necessary to beat Roosevelt."

Of course, this yarn does not jibe with other stories related by Monroe, but, apparently, he succeeded in talking himself out of beat-out by the House Military Affairs Committee for refusing to testify when called as a witness. Chairman A. J. May, Democrat, Kentucky, a few days ago was threatening all sorts of dire things, but is now signing a different one, questioning whether the committee has the powers to cite Monroe for contempt. The impression grows in Washington that the committee intends to soft-pedal the R Street scandal. It seems more interested in forcing shingles for workers than in exposing crooked lobbying. The committee has promised to respond to a demand by the Louisiana delegation that it probe the charges by a radio commentator that it was engaged in a conspiracy to "split the awg" in a deal that Monroe is engineering. The commentator, didn't name the Congressman and therefore every member of the delegation feels he is under a cloud. Hence the demand that the committee go to the bottom of the charge.

Way of Remembering

THIS day we set a sacred wreath of flowers on the graves of our heroes. How richly from their dust beneath Have we inherited!

Courage and honor, faith and pride They gave, and gallant youth, To leave the land for which they died Victorious in truth.

Let us fulfill the promise made Never forget the price they paid— Pearl Harbor, Wake, Bataan!

Their blood enriched the Solomon, Reddended the Coral Sea, So that their sons and their sons' sons, Might stand forever free.

This sky beneath whose dream they sleep, This land their faith kept pure, With equal faith and love we keep Unspotted and secure.

By these broad acres let us swear, That we will never let our flag be torn, To rid the world of want and fear, To give men breath and bread.

By these green hills our fathers trod, These valleys they adored, O let us lift our songs to God, For freedom's flashing sword!

By Liberty's eternal star

We pledge our soldier slain, By all we have and all we are, They have not died in vain.

This day from all days set apart, This solemn day of days, When pride and grief within the heart Contend with prayer and praise—

This day in this grim year of grace, Beyond all days and years, Finds us undaunted as we face, The darkness and its fears.

They dared the worst, our valiant dead; We cannot compromise, But follow where their valor led, Redeem their sacrifice.

Until the peace their courage made, Above the crimson barricade, Completes their victory.

From dreams that blazed, hopes that burned —Their glory and our sorrow— Be it their bright idea which we earned: The better world tomorrow!

—By Joseph Auslander

Chief of Poetry Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D. C.

The Axis Becomes Shaky

By Raymond Clapper

STOCKHOLM ALIED spokesmen would do well, I think, to follow the lead of Winston Churchill's address to Congress, in which he said the Allies would show no mercy to the German and Italian peoples who abandoned or destroyed their present regimes of tyranny.

More and more Allied propaganda can be turned effectively against Hitler and Mussolini and against the Axis as a whole. It is not only that we could well refrain from threats of punitive retaliation against the masses of the German and Italian peoples, but that it is emphasized here so close to Germany is that Goebbels is working desperately to hold the allegiance of the German people on a larger scale by telling them that a dire fate awaits them if Germany is defeated.

In building up that line the German press eagerly exploits every item that can be found in the American or British press about the determination of the Allies to re-educate or exterminate or sterilize German people after the war. Extreme statements in Allied countries make the Axis German propaganda as true as time when fear is the chief weapon of the Nazi regime in holding the German people together. People who have come out of Germany recently and who are friendly to our side—such as escaped prisoners—say that there are many signs that the German people are beginning to get the best Allied propaganda is Allied bombing of Germany and Italy. That impresses the Germans and the neutrals more than anything else.

Some here who have long been intimately informed about Germany regard it as highly significant that the Germans in Tunisia stopped fighting before it was necessary to take the city of Annabona. That circumstance has not been lost on the Swedes, the best informed of whom regard it as highly significant that the German army in Tunisia has been broken up and the Allied offensive is pressed home.

The Germans in most places from Berlin west and north now can talk increasing danger from the air. Anyone walking down Unter den Eichen in Berlin will find that the city is being damaged in the vicinity of the Adlon Hotel. At last report the Adlon itself appeared to be still unscathed, but the four-story building, a number of hotels and apartments in the Tiergarten district where officers' messes are being housed, were hit on the March 17 raid the area around the Hotel Esplanade was raked off from the public house by the German air force. There has been some heavy damage around railroad tracks in the suburbs.

Obviously all over Berlin residents are constantly aware of the fact that the coming air war over Germany has in fact begun, but only begun. Industrialists here know what damage is being done to Germany production. The entire production of war materiel in Germany, employing 20,000 persons, was laid flat some months ago—completely demolished. Such losses have a most devastating effect on production schedules, because so many components of war machines are missing as a result.

The point of this is that it drives the German military machine into an attitude of conserving its equipment. It leaves the Axis weakened for a war of attrition. Hundreds of planes are being lost, and the German air force is being less easily replaced than our own losses. We could now afford to be losing far more planes than which the loss, now moving on, is actually the case. That fact, as informed industrialists here put it, is a sentence of doom already pronounced.

Incidentally, the fact that in the last few months Sweden has been able to get its arms and munitions inside Germany have come to the conclusion that Allied victory is certain, accounts for the haste with which the German military machine is being dismantled in America. Stronger negotiation and consular staffs with economic and other experts, will prepare for reopening trade upon as the German blockade of Sweden is broken.